Can't Hardly Wait

Written by Deborah Kaplan & Harry Elfont

CANT HARDLY WAIT

THE PARTY

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CREDITS SEQUENCE. TITLES OVER PHOTOGRAPHS FROM GRADUATION CEREMONIES. MUSIC PLAYS AS WE CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

PRESTON GREENE, 18, drives along in a beat-up old Volvo with a green GRADUATION TASSEL hanging from the rearview mirror. He's wearing a "dog's eye view" T-SHIRT and DRINKS a SLURPEE as he drives, slowing to a stop in front of:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Preston turns the stereo down and HONKS the HORN. He takes a quick glance at himself in the rearview mirror, seeming only marginally satisfied with what he sees. He HONKS again.

As he waits, Preston OPENS the LID of his Slurpee and plays with the SPOON/STRAW: first DRINKING from it, then FILLING it and LIFTING it over his head -- letting the liquid spill into his mouth. On his third attempt, he MISSES his mouth completely and the fluorescent orange slush SLIDES DOWN THE FRONT OF HIS SHIRT. He looks down, alarmed and disgusted.

We FREEZE on his look:

SUPER his YEARBOOK INFORMATION:

PRESTON GREENE: "Pres"

ACTIVITIES: SWIMMING 9-12, HONOR SOCIETY 9-12, FRENCH CLUB 10, STUDENT COUNCIL 11.

FUTURE PLANS: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

QUOTE: "Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes." - Thoreau

UNFREEZE. Preston futilely WIPES at the orange stain as the car door OPENS. DENISE, 17, climbs into the car. It's hard to tell if she's pretty behind her heavy GLASSES and baggy clothing.

DENISE
Hey.
(noticing his shirt)
Eew.

Preston looks up at her, annoyed.

DENISE (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you?

FREEZE FRAME. SUPER YEARBOOK INFO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE FLEMING:

ACTIVITIES: none

FUTURE PLANS: N.Y.U.

QUOTE: "A true friend stabs you in the front." - Oscar Wilde

UNFREEZE. Denise PICKS UP a second SLURPEE resting in the car's cup-holder.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Is this one mine?

PRESTON
You are not gonna believe what happened.

They drive off. Denise drinks her Slurpee. She makes a face.

DENISE
Uch. This tastes like baby aspirin.

PRESTON
The other flavors were broken -- did you even hear me just now?

DENISE
Yes. Not gonna believe what happened. What happened?

PRESTON
Matt Wachinski just called me. He said Mike Dexter broke up with Amanda Beckett at graduation!

DENISE
Oh. I knew that hours ago. Kira Mitchell called me.

PRESTON
And you didn't call me? How could you not call me?!

DENISE
I didn't want you to freak out.

PRESTON
(freaking out)
Why would I freak out?! I wouldn't freak out!

Denise just looks at him.

CONTINUED: (3)

DENISE
Yeah but what? All you've been talking about this whole year is how you would give anything to go to this summer writing workshop with Kurt Vonnegut. You finally get accepted and you're gonna blow it off for Amanda? I mean, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity Preston. Kurt Vonnegut's really old. He could die soon.

PRESTON
Don't say that! And I'm not gonna blow it off.

DENISE
This is ridiculous. You've never even had a conversation with her! In four years --

PRESTON
It's not about conversations! It's about a connection! Amanda and I are connected. We have been since the first day she came to school ...

DENISE
(cringing)
Please don't --

FLASHBACK:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY (FOUR YEARS EARLIER)

We see Preston as a FRESHMAN getting out of his DAD'S CAR. He walks towards the school.

PRESTON (VO)
October, Freshman year. The first time in history I ever missed the bus ...

At the same time we see a YOUNG WOMAN step out of another car (NOTE: WE NEVER SEE AMANDA'S FACE DURING THESE FLASHBACKS). She walks into the school. Preston is immediately mesmerized.

PRESTON (VO-CONT'D)
If I had arrived on time I never would have seen her. But as it was, I was the first person at Huntingdon High to set eyes on Amanda Beckett. It was her first day of school.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY (FOUR YEARS EARLIER)

Preston hands his note to the SECRETARY, but can't take his eyes off of Amanda, who is going over her paperwork with another OFFICE WORKER.

PRESTON (VO-CONT'D)
A mere few minutes later, I'm at the Principal's office, getting my late pass, and *she's* there doing registration. I immediately notice an item in her pocket... a frosted strawberry pop-tart. My favorite breakfast food.

Indeed, Preston has a frosted strawberry pop-tart in his hand. He takes a bite, still staring at Amanda.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (FOUR YEARS EARLIER)

Preston is sitting at his desk in class, reading a copy of "ZEN AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE". He looks up to see AMANDA walk into the classroom.

PRESTON (VO-CONT'D)
Then, I'm sitting in class, doing a little pleasure reading, when suddenly out of all the classrooms in the whole school she walks into mine ...

The teacher points out a seat to her.

PRESTON (VO-CONT'D)
And where does the teacher sit her? Right next to me!

Amanda sits. Preston looks stunned.

PRESTON (VO-CONT'D)
And then, as if guided by some unknown force, I'm struck by the urge to peer inside of her bag -- and what do I find? The very same book I was reading at that moment!

We see the copy of "MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE" in her bag. Preston looks at his book in awe.

PRESTON (VO-CONT'D)
Clearly, this was something more divine than coincidence. What was I to do, how was I to proceed?

CONTINUED:

TEACHER
Who would like to volunteer to give Amanda a tour of the school?

Preston smiles. Here is his golden opportunity. He lifts his hand and opens his mouth. But we hear:

MIKE
I will.

Mike is already walking over to Amanda. She rises and he smiles at her. Preston is dumbfounded.

PRESTON (VO)
Mike Dexter.

As Amanda grabs her bag to leave with Mike, something FALLS out. It's the copy of "ZEN." Preston watches the book fall in SLOW MOTION as Amanda leaves the room with Mike. The door shuts behind them and THE BOOK HITS THE FLOOR. WHAM!

INT. CAR - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Preston is looking down in horror, as if he's still staring at the book.

PRESTON
That's where I lost her. I had a clear shot and I hesitated. But fate's finally given me a second chance.

DENISE
Fate ... Pop-Tarts ... I can see how this all makes sense to you.

Preston looks at her. He keeps driving. Then he smiles.

PRESTON
I can't believe he broke up with her.

CUT TO:

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Three BURLY JOCKS, chow down on the sloppy, greasy food. One of them -- MOUTH FULL of BURGER exclaims:

JOCK #1
I can't believe you broke up with her, man!

We PAN across the table to see another JOCK. Good looking, cocky and tough. This is MIKE DEXTER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE
Well, it's like I always say ...

And he lets out a HUGE BELCH. The other JOCKS go nuts. Mike smiles, proud.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPER YEARBOOK INFO:

MIKE DEXTER: "Dex"

VARSITY FOOTBALL 9-12, VARSITY BASEBALL 9-12, VARSITY WRESTLING 10-11, VARSITY TRACK 11, VARSITY 'H' SOCIETY, YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS CLUB 12.

FUTURE PLANS: ITHACA COLLEGE

QUOTE: "Just win, baby."- Al Davis
(Owner, Oakland Raiders)

UNFREEZE. The jocks continue to eat and drink like pigs.

JOCK #1
But Amanda was so hot, man.

JOCK #2
So hot.

MIKE
Yeah. I guess ... for a *high school* girl.

The guys look perplexed. Mike explains.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Guys, we're not in high school anymore -- I mean except for those bogus remedial classes. We're gonna be college men soon. And you know who's gonna be in college?

The jocks look confused. One jock RAISES HIS HAND. Mike 'calls' on him.

JOCK #1
Girls who used to be in high school?

MIKE
No, man. Women. College women. Women with no curfew and -- women on the pill and -- and ... women, bro! We're staring into the future, and it is Women!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

They look at each other, excited.

THE JOCKS
Women ...

JOCK #1
Shit. I never thought about that.

MIKE
I'm always a step ahead of you guys. That's why I play defense.

JOCK #2
Hey ... maybe we should dump our girlfriends too.

MIKE
Now that'd be sweet! We'd have the whole summer to just hang out together and party and screw every chick in sight! Without our lame girlfriends hanging around.

JOCK #1
Yeah ...

JOCK #2
They hate it when we screw other chicks.

JOCK #3
They suck.

MIKE
That's what I'm saying!

JOCK #1
I don't need that shit. You're right, Dex, man. Beth can kiss my ass!

MIKE
Yes!

The dominos are starting to fall.

JOCK #2
Yeah. Me too. I'm breaking up with Patty as soon as I see her tonight!

Mike POUNDS FISTS with him. They all turn to Jock #3, waiting for him to join in. He looks worried.

JOCK #3
What if they start crying and shit?

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
Who cares!

Jock #3 thinks for maybe a second ...

JOCK #3
All right, I'm in.

Mike RAISES HIS ARMS in victory.

JOCK #2
This is brilliant, man. Such a good idea.

He raises his beer to Mike. The others follow.

JOCK #3
Mike Dexter's a god!

JOCK #1
Mike Dexter's a role model.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

The secret underground lair of geekdom. Downloaded pictures of Teri Hatcher. Big multimedia computer station. Action figures everywhere. In the middle of it is WILLIAM LUTZ. He's a skinny guy with uncombed short hair and glasses.

WILLIAM
Mike Dexter's an asshole.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPER YEARBOOK INFO:

WILLIAM LUTZ: "William"

HONOR SOCIETY 9-12, CONCERT BAND 9-12, CHOIR 9-12, STUDENT GOVERNMENT 10-12, LATIN CLUB 10-12, WORLD AFFAIRS FORUM 9-12 ...

(The list quickly reaches the bottom of the screen, SCROLLING ENDLESSLY, revealing countless clubs, honors and awards. It finally stops at: CHESS, 10.)

FUTURE PLANS: HARVARD UNIVERSITY

QUOTE: "All great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds." - Albert Einstein

UNFREEZE. William turns to his TWO FRIENDS. They are even geekier than he is, wearing matching X-FILES t-shirts: one reads "THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE" the other says "TRUST NO ONE".

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
He's a knuckle-dragging half-wit who's been taking advantage of his physical superiority for too long ...
(building in intensity)
But tonight he'll finally know what it's like to have everybody laughing at him. To face the scorn and ridicule of the entire student body. Tonight is the night we fight back! Tonight is ... Independence Night!

He looks at The X-Files Guys. They're not even paying attention. One is typing away on the internet. The other is playing with the action figures.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Hello?!

The X-Files guys look at William.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
C'mon, I wanna go over this once more! It's only gonna work if we're totally in synch.

The guys come over to the table.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
We'll set up in the backyard at the poolhouse, here ...

He points a LASER POINTER at couple of ACTION FIGURES set up next to a SEGA BOX.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
This is me. You're Grand Moff Tarkin and you're Boba Fett.

X-FILES GUY #2
How come he gets to be Boba Fett?

WILLIAM
Whatever. You're Grand Moff Tarkin and he's Boba Fett.

X-FILES GUY #1
I don't want to be Grand Moff Tarkin.

CONTINUED: (2)

William sighs and picks up another figure.

WILLIAM
Fine! He's Boba Fett and you're Captain Picard.

X-FILES GUY #1
(can't help smiling)
Cool.

William gestures with the laser pointer as he talks.

WILLIAM
So ... at the pre-determined time, I lead Mike and one of his random jock friends out to the poolhouse, where you guys are waiting. You pounce down on them, rendering them unconscious with the chloroform we mixed in chem lab.

Points to a "JURASSIC PARK" dinosaur-head THERMOS. There's a little SKULL & CROSSBONES taped to it.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Then we strip off their clothes and take polaroids of said jocks naked, in a lurid embrace. We pass the pictures around the party and boom -- instant humiliation.

The guys LAUGH gleefully. The perfect plan.

X-FILES GUY #1
Wait. How are you gonna get them to follow you out to the poolhouse?

WILLIAM
I'm gonna tell them Melissa Greenspan and Ashley Haussman are making out together and want them to watch.

The X-Files guys nod.

X-FILES GUY #2
(imagining)
Yeah.

WILLIAM
It's time to finally even the score with that troglodyte. For everything. All the way back to the pudding incident.

CONTINUED: (3)

William walks to the other side of the room and starts gathering up the supplies. X-Files Guy #1 turns from the computer to X-Files Guy #2, and WHISPERS:

X-FILES GUY #1
The pudding incident?

X-FILES GUY #2
Yeah. It was before you moved here. Let's just say it involved chocolate pudding and William's underwear.

William turns around, he's got a TOOLBOX in one hand, a LADDER the other and a POLAROID CAMERA around his neck. It's showtime.

WILLIAM
Ready to move out?

William exits. They follow him up the stairs.

X-FILES GUY #2 (CONT'D)
Jeez ... I wonder what it'll be like in there? You think people will be doing drugs?

X-FILES GUY #1
Are you kidding? People may even be having sex tonight ...

CUT TO:

INT. 7-11 - NIGHT

KENNY, 18 and the trendiest guy in history, stands in front of the beverage coolers. He leafs through a copy of PLAYBOY's "GIRLS OF THE BIG TEN".

KENNY
I've got to have sex tonight.

FREEZE on Kenny. SUPER his YEARBOOK INFORMATION:

KENNETH FISHER: "Kenny", "Fish"

ACTIVITIES: Golf, 10

FUTURE PLANS: UCLA

QUOTE: "Picture me rollin'" -- Tupac

UNFREEZE. Kenny shows his two goofy WHITE HOMEBOY FRIENDS a page in the magazine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNY (CONT'D)
I mean, peep this. 92 percent of the honeys at UCLA are sexually active. 92 percent!

Kenny's friends study the page, flipping to the centerfold.

KENNY (CONT'D)
You know what dat means?
(gestures at the centerfold)
Dat means I got a 92 percent chance of embarrassing myself when I hook up with that shortie and don't know twenty different ways to make her call me Big Poppa.

Kenny's friend LICKS the centerfold photo.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Awww yeahhh ...

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
(grabbing the magazine)
Dawg -- there's no <u>way</u> she goes to UCLA.

KENNY
It says so, don't it? And even if she don't, G, <u>every</u> girl in L.A. looks like that.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Awww yeahhhh ... Kenny man, you gonna have all da mad honeys! I goiwn be jettin' out to your crib <u>every</u> weekend! You know whatuhm sayin'?

KENNY
Word.
(turns)
I gotta get some Breath Assure.

He walks down the aisle. Homeboy #2 follows. They pass by an AFRICAN AMERICAN CUSTOMER who eyes them and shakes his head in disgust.

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
So what? Who's the lucky bee-otch?

Kenny grabs a box of BREATE ASSURE from the rack.

KENNY
I haven't decided. I figure since the whole class is going to the party, I
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KENNY (cont'd)
should give all the ladies an equal chance -- you know whatuhm sayin'? It took me all day jus' to narrow it down to a list of ten finalists.

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
Lemme see.

Kenny reaches into his trendy vinyl BACKPACK and procures a small NOTEBOOK. He leafs through it.

KENNY
I got a sophisticated ratings scale including Looks, Body, Reputation, Might-Owe-Me-A-Favor ...

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
(laughs)
'Might owe you a favor'? Aw yeah, that'll work -- "Hey Jenny, I know I let you cheat off me in math -- so you think I could stick my straw in your juicebox?"

Kenny closes the book and walks up to the register, annoyed.

KENNY
Yo, why you don't show no love? Check this -- I am a finesse player, you know whatum sayin'? I am gonna Barry White my way into a woman's heart. Observe -- the Loooove Kit ...

Kenny UNZIPS his backpack. It unfolds, revealing a sizable cache of sexual aids -- CONDOMS, a BOYZ II MEN CD, a pocket-size KAMA SUTRA ...

Homeboy #2 reaches for something in the bag. Kenny grabs for it, but is too late. The homeboy holds up a long PINK CANDLE. Looks at it in disgust.

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
A pink dildo! Aw damn, my boy'z a fag!

Homeboy #1 approaches, carrying two 40-oz. COLT .45's.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Who's a fag?

Kenny GRABS the candle back, angry.

KENNY
Both of you.
(putting the candle away)
That is a "Smell of Love" scented candle,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KENNY (cont'd)
bitch. And if either of you knew anything at all about seduction, you'd know that women go wild for little romantic gestures, such as scented candles.

He ZIPS up his bag protectively. Looks for the CLERK, who's over at the SLURPEE machine. Kenny calls to him.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Can I pay for dese, please?!

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
You actually think you're gonna go to this party tonight armed with a "my first condom" kit and some honey's gonna let you squirt your first with her?

The CLERK arrives and rings up the breath assure.

KENNY
Just watch me, G.

Kenny smiles and leaves the store. His Homeboys follow.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

The street is lined with CARS, and KIDS stream into the house by the dozens. Loud, thumping MUSIC can be heard, both from the house and the cars cruising for parking spaces. We see Preston's Volvo, parallel parking.

INT. PRESTON'S CAR - NIGHT

He looks out at the crowd as he parks the car.

PRESTON
Jeez. Looks like the whole school's showing up.

DENISE
(dryly)
Fabulous.

PRESTON
You know, this is the last night of high school. You may want to at least <u>try</u> enjoying it.

DENISE
<u>Last</u> night was the last night of high school. This is just some desperate attempt for the winners to try and suck out every last drop of their 'glory days'
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE (cont'd)
while ignoring the fact that they're about to enter a world where popularity is no longer the end-all-be-all. I don't need to say goodbye to any of these people.

PRESTON
So young, so bitter.

DENISE
Hey, I'm only here because you didn't want to come alone.

He finishes parking, but doesn't turn the car off. Denise watches as he sits there in a DAZE.

PRESTON
You know, I brought the letter.

DENISE
You're not gonna give her the letter.

PRESTON
I might give her the letter.

DENISE
Preston, you've been carrying around that sappy love letter to Amanda since Freshman year. You revise it every fall because you're <u>that</u> much more in love with her --

PRESTON
All great writers revise.

DENISE
(continuing)
-- Yet somehow it's never actually left your possession.

PRESTON
Because the time was never right. But tonight's different. Everything's different.

She starts PLAYING with the car RADIO, changing the stations.

DENISE
No it's not. What do you think, all these people have suddenly changed? I mean, if anything, they're all clinging to --

CONTINUED: (2)

PRESTON
Wait -- shh!

He STOPS her hand from changing the stations. BARRY MANILOW is playing.

DENISE
What. It's Barry Manilow. Why do you have a preset that plays Barry Manilow?

Preston POINTS to the radio just as Barry kicks in with the CHORUS. It's "MANDY". Preston looks at Denise, thrilled.

PRESTON
"Mandy"! That's it! "Mandy", Amanda... That's it -- that's a sign!!

DENISE
Preston, I hate to disturb the alternate universe you've wandered into, but that song's supposedly about his dog.

PRESTON
It's not about his dog! It's about a woman -- named Amanda. Nobody names their dog Amanda.

DENISE
My cousins named their dog Samantha.

PRESTON
Shut up with the dog! This is totally a sign! My sign.

He turns the car OFF. Takes the LETTER out of the GLOVE COMPARTMENT. Holds it up.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Consider me ready.

Denise rolls her eyes.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

At the front door stands the GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS -- giddily greeting her classmates. A GOLDEN RETRIEVER pants by her feet.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Hi! Come on in! Don't let the dog out... Oh my god I'm so glad you came!... Don't let the dog out...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Preston and Denise enter. They are immediately accosted by a very perky GIRL, excitedly clutching a YEARBOOK.

YEARBOOK GIRL
Preston Gree-eene! Not one step further until you sign my yearbook!

She happily presents it to him, along with a pen.

PRESTON
Uh, sure ...

YEARBOOK GIRL
I'm going to be the first Huntington student to get all five hundred and twenty-two seniors to sign!

DENISE
Everybody's gotta have a dream.

The insult lost on her, Yearbook Girl turns to Denise.

YEARBOOK GIRL
Denise Flem-ing! Don't think you're gonna get past without signing either!

Preston finishes. Yearbook Girl hands the book to Denise.

YEARBOOK GIRL
I made a special little space for you to sign in the back.
(pouting)
Why didn't you get your senior portrait taken?

DENISE
Specifically to avoid moments like this one ...

Denise SCRIBBLES something and hands the yearbook back. Yearbook Girl beams, oblivious.

YEARBOOK GIRL
Thanks, you two! Goooooo Huntington!

She does a little JUMP and BOUNCES off into the party.

DENISE
Okay, I'm ready to leave.

Just then, a CRYING DRUNK GIRL wanders up to them. She speaks to them, but her words are indecipherable through her sobbing. So ALL HER DIALOGUE IS SUBTITLED.

(CONTINUED)

CRYING DRUNK GIRL
This is the best party ever! I am gonna miss you guys so much next year!

She gives them a group hug and drifts off, still crying.

PRESTON
There's one at every party.

DENISE
Kinda makes you wanna never drink ...

They head off into the crowd.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

A shiny, black RANGE ROVER with tinted gangster windows is angled into the driveway -- blocking two other cars. Dr. Dre THUMPS loudly as the driver's window SLIDES DOWN, revealing Kenny. He checks out his key parking space. Homeboy #2 speaks up.

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
Kenny, the bitch is gonna freak if you park here. You're blockin' the whole driveway.

KENNY
Yeah, well she should have valet.

He turns the car off and the guys pile out. Kenny grabs his backpack/Love Kit and holds it up.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Lez go. Time is honeys.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Awww yeahhh ....

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Kenny and his crew are greeted at the front door by the Girl Whose Party It Is.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Hi! Come on in! Don't let the dog out --

She stops -- turning and looking off to one side.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
You guys ...

She steps over to the DINING ROOM and LIFTS a fallen TAPE BARRIER up, re-fixing it between the doorways.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Seriously, no one's allowed in this room, okay? My parents get home on Sunday and--

Just then, she turns back to the front door to see the DOG JUMPING happily on KENNY.

KENNY
Get off!

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Hey, don't let the dog out!

Kenny, protecting his outfit, tries to shoo the jumping dog off.

KENNY
Yo, go away!

And the dog does. Right out of the house. The Girl Whose Party It Is Runs for the door.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
No! Tofu, no! Tofu! Tofu! Get back here! Oh, great ... Tofu, come!

She runs out after the dog. Kenny doesn't even look back. He steps inside. They head for the living room and are stopped by:

YEARBOOK GIRL
Kenny Fish-er! Sign my yearbook!

She BOUNCES up to Kenny and the guys. Kenny keeps walking.

KENNY
No thanks, no time ...

YEARBOOK GIRL
(following them)
Come on! Where's your school spirit? "Who's the school that's num-ber one?! Shout it, shout it, Hunt-ing--"

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
Bitch, get a life!

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
(laughs)
Awww yeahhhh ....

Yearbook Girl sulks as the boys walk away. She spots another student and immediately brightens.

(CONTINUED)

YEARBOOK GIRL
Vicki Compter! Sign my yearbook!

INT. PARTY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kenny enters, followed by his crew. He scopes the room. Nods, pleased.

KENNY
Aww yeahh ... got crazy talent here tonight. Shorties are gonna be linin' up to get with me ...
(turns to Homeboys)
Check you later. Time to get busy ...

He holds up his backpack and saunters off, cocky as hell. The Homeboys look at one another.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Think he's gonna hizzit the skizzins?

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
(scoffs)
I got <u>much</u> doubt.

They are almost KNOCKED OVER by a GUY with a nose ring DRAGGING a BEAT UP AMP past them.

NOSE RING GUY
Look out! Coming through! Watch it fellas, I'm with the band!

The Homeboys call after him, pissed.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Yo white boy, check yo'self!

The Nose Ring Guy ignores them, pulling the amp into the den.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

The Nose Ring Guy hooks up the amp. The furniture has been pushed to the sides of the room for the BAND setting up in the corner. The LEAD SINGER paces excitedly.

LEAD SINGER
Man, our first show playing out! This is gonna be sweet!

The GUITAR PLAYER, DRUMMER and BASS PLAYER slap hands in excitement.

DRUMMER
Dude, I heard Carol Gronner invited her cousin tonight -- and his brother's roommate knows a guy who knows a scout out in L.A.!

BASS PLAYER
Shut up!

The Lead Singer nods seriously.

LEAD SINGER
Glad we got those T-shirts printed ...

Behind the band we see an impossibly high PILE OF T-SHIRTS. We MOVE beyond the shirts to see through the WINDOW to the backyard. We can see FIGURES SNEAKING out to the POOLHOUSE in the distance. It's William and his friends.

EXT. POOLHOUSE - NIGHT

William LEANS a LADDER against the side of the poolhouse.

WILLIAM
All clear.

He motions them to the ladder. They look up -- scared (even though the roof is barely six feet off the ground).

X-FILES GUY #1
Up there?

WILLIAM
C'mon ... It's just like the episode where Mulder had to climb up the water tower to check out that abduction site.

X-FILES GUY #2
Yeah. Episode 23. "The Erlenmeyer Flask"!

X-FILES GUY #1
(still terrified)
I guess ...

He reluctantly starts climbing. William passes the equipment up to him when he's at the top.

WILLIAM
All right. You guys set? We'll rendezvous at twenty four-thirty. I'm goin' in.

CONTINUED:

He shrugs his shoulders around to loosen up.

X-FILES GUY #2
Wait, William -- there's gonna be drinking in there!

WILLIAM
Yeah, so?

X-FILES GUY #2
What are you gonna do? They're gonna kick you out if you don't drink!

WILLIAM
Oh, but I will be drinking ...

The X-Files Guys GASP.

X-FILES GUY #1
But William! You could get drunk!

X-FILES GUY #2
You could get addicted!

William smiles confidently and pulls a small COMPUTER PRINTED CHART out of his pocket.

WILLIAM
Don't worry. In order to not blow my cover, I devised a formula whereby I can monitor my blood alcohol level. I know exactly how many spirits I can imbibe without affecting my behavior or judgement.

X-FILES GUY #1
Wow. You've got every angle covered.

X-FILES GUY #2
(reverent)
Just like Cancer Man.

William nods. Quite a compliment.

WILLIAM
All right. I guess it's time.

X-FILES GUY #1
Good luck, man!

X-FILES GUY #2
William ... Trust no one.

CONTINUED: (2)

He nods and turns toward the party house. He takes a DEEP BREATH and heads for the BACK PATIO.

INT. PARTY HOUSE FOYER - NIGHT

A GROUP OF KIDS surround a gangly Belgian EXCHANGE STUDENT. He's got a really bad haircut and wears a USA T-SHIRT. He speaks HALTINGLY with an ACCENT.

EXCHANGE STUDENT
I am ... a ... sex machine.

The kids LAUGH hysterically. The Exchange Student laughs too.

LAUGHING GIRL
Teach him something else!

LAUGHING GUY
Okay, okay. How 'bout ...
(turns to Exchange Student)
"Would you like to touch my penis?"

EXCHANGE STUDENT
(trying)
Would ... you ... like ... to ...

We hear an OFFSCREEN YELL and PAN to the FRONT DOOR --

Mike and his Jock friends have arrived.

MIKE
Class of 97! Kiss my ass! Whoooooo!

Everybody sees Mike and CHEERS him on. The Yearbook Girl comes BOUNDING up to him.

YEARBOOK GIRL
Oh my god! Mike Dexter! I've got to get you to sign my yearbook!

Mike barely looks at her. She starts a cheer for him.

YEARBOOK GIRL (CONT'D)
(actually doing the moves)
"Which team has the winning play?!
Huntington, Huntington, hey, hey --"

Mike SHOVES her out of frame.

YEARBOOK GIRL (O.S.)
Hey!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We hear an offscreen THUD. Mike and his friends continue through the foyer, strutting like they own the place. Various STUDENTS say "Hi" and give them HIGH FIVES.

One of the Jocks sees something in the next room.

JOCK #2
Dudes, there they are.

JOCK POV: THREE GIRLS. Pretty, perky and loud. These are the GIRLFRIENDS. They see the jocks and SQUEAL LOUDLY.

Mike covers his ears from the screeching as the Girlfriends rush over to the jocks and give them HUGE HUGS.

GIRLFRIEND #1
There you are! I missed you so much!

GIRLFRIEND #2
I haven't seen my boyfriend in six whole hours!

GIRLFRIEND #3
(baby voice)
Come give your wuvvy bunny a hug ...

Mike scoffs. The Girls turn to him, pissed.

MIKE
How ya doin'?

The girls just SCOWL at him. Like he's the devil. They eventually turn back to their boyfriends.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Dudes. Remember the gameplan.

Jock #1 nods to Mike.

JOCK #1
Right. Totally.
(turns to his Girlfriend)
Uh ... look, Beth, we've got to talk. In fact ... we've <u>all</u> got to talk. Right guys? Guys ...?

He looks up. Everyone's STARING SILENTLY over at the FRONT DOOR.

GIRLFRIEND #2
(whispering)
I can't believe she came.

Mike TURNS to see ... A BEAUTIFUL girl standing in the doorway. This is AMANDA. FREEZE FRAME. SUPER YEARBOOK INFO:

AMANDA BECKETT: "Beck", "Princess"

ACTIVITIES: CHEERLEADING 9-12, HOMECOMING QUEEN, SOPH HOP QUEEN, JUNIOR PROM QUEEN, SENIOR PROM QUEEN.

FUTURE PLANS: NURSING SCHOOL

QUOTE: "Well my heart is where it's always been, my head is somewhere in between..." - U2

UNFREEZE. Amanda stands there. She sees everyone staring at her. Whispering.

VARIOUS WHISPERS (O.S.)
Amanda Beckett's here ... Mike Dexter broke up with her this morning ... She looks terrible ...

WHIP PAN TO: Preston and Denise. Preston is gazing at Amanda.

DENISE
There she is.

A look of determination falls across Preston's face. He straightens his posture, then STRIDES purposefully through the crowd TOWARDS AMANDA.

Amanda looks at Preston quizzically as he stops in front of her. He reaches into his pocket and HANDS her the LETTER. Amanda looks at it, confused. She OPENS it and READS ...

Her expression changes as she reads on. She looks up at Preston, touched. By the end of the letter, she is CRYING.

PRESTON
Amanda. I --

AMANDA
Call me Mandy.

With that, she steps forward and KISSES him passionately. Barry Manilow's "MANDY" starts playing from somewhere. As the music swells, we PULL BACK and ...

DENISE (O.S.)
Preston.

CONTINUED: (3)

Preston SNAPS out of his reverie. In reality, he's still just standing by Denise, frozen and slackjawed. Amanda is heading off in the OPPOSITE DIRECTION, into the crowd. Denise looks at him.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Well that was good. I think you made a real connection there.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mike, the Jocks and the Girlfriends stand at the entrance to the living room -- staring as Amanda walks up to them.

AMANDA
Hey guys.

The guys offer awkward hellos, while the girls' greetings are overly sympathetic. Amanda turns to Mike.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Hey Mike.

Mike looks at her for a moment, then coolly looks away. She rolls her eyes, annoyed, then WALKS AWAY.

The Girlfriends look at Mike, angry.

GIRLFRIEND #1
Now look what you did.

GIRLFRIEND #3
Can't you see she's in pain?

GIRLFRIEND #2
God, be a bigger dick.

GIRLFRIEND #1
(to other Girlfriends)
We'd better go talk to her.

GIRLFRIEND #2
Totally. She looks destroyed.

GIRLFRIEND #3
Suicidal.

They kiss the Jocks.

GIRLFRIEND #1
We'll be right back.
(to Mike)
Way to go, asshole.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They run off after Amanda. When they're gone, Mike looks at the Jocks. Smiles.

MIKE
So where the hell's the alcohol?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A GUY enters CARRYING A HUGE WATERMELON. Shouts to all.

WATERMELON GUY
I poured six bottles of vodka in here last September! It's been in my freezer all year!

Everyone immediately CROWDS around him, causing the guy to LOSE HIS BALANCE. The WATERMELON FALLS. SPLAT! Everyone groans and walks away, leaving the Watermelon Guy alone, staring down at his destroyed pride and joy.

Denise and Preston step over the mess.

DENISE
Now that's tragic.

Preston looks around, nervous.

PRESTON
God, did you see how she looked? She's beautiful. Is it possible she's gotten more beautiful since graduation?

Denise looks off, bored.

DENISE
I really don't think so.

Through the kitchen door Denise sees Kenny, checking himself out in a HALLWAY MIRROR. He's got his hand up to his profile, surreptitiously trying to see how he'd look with a NOSE JOB.

Denise nudges Preston to look. She affects a girly voice.

DENISE (CONT'D)
"God, won't I ever be on Soul Train?"

Preston turns away, looking for Amanda again.

PRESTON
Do you have to rag on everybody?

CONTINUED:

DENISE
Please, his wardrobe alone leaves him open for public mockery.

PRESTON
Whatever you say. I'm not the one who used to sleep over his house.

DENISE
That was in fourth grade. You wanna start going over who *your* friends were in fourth grade?

PRESTON
Hey, just because David Ackerman ate chalk doesn't mean he was weird.

Preston glances around, not wanting to look like he's looking. He LOWERS HIS VOICE as he questions Denise.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
So do you see her? Where do you think she went?

Denise POINTS to the dining room.

DENISE
Right over there.

Preston TURNS. Sure enough, through the doorway we can see Amanda sitting on a chaise, surrounded by her girlfriends.

PRESTON
(grabs Denise's hand)
Well don't point at her!

DENISE
She didn't see!

PRESTON
Quick! Move, move!

He ducks out into the hallway. Denise follows.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Preston shuts his eyes and takes a series of deep breaths.

DENISE
Are you hyperventilating? Should I get a bag?

PRESTON
No, no. I'm centering myself. Harnessing my Ch'i.

DENISE
Were you this weird when we went out?

PRESTON
Were you this bitchy when we went out?

DENISE
Yes I was. For the whole week. One bitchy eighth grader ...

Preston ignores her, peering over towards the living room.

PRESTON
I can do this. I'm ready. As soon as she's alone ...

DENISE
Yes, with no one to protect her from all the harnessed Ch'i.

Preston shoots her a look. Denise relents.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Sorry. Look, just go do it. You'll be fine.

PRESTON
Are you gonna be okay here?

DENISE
Yeah, whatever. I think I'm gonna get a ride home with someone else though, seeing as you're probably gonna wanna stay later than me.

PRESTON
Are you sure?

DENISE
Sure, sure. Go on.

Preston NODS, then turns and WALKS back into the kitchen. Denise sighs and looks around at the party -- suddenly very alone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kenny stands off to the side of the room, surveying the scene. He NODS to himself.

KENNY (V.O.)
Okay. 'Dis is it. It is finally time for Kenny Fisher to become 'da man. I've done my laps ...

He glances at the NOTEBOOK in his hand. His top ten list.

KENNY (V.O. - CONT'D)
And all ten finalists are present and accounted for ...
(looking around, nodding)
Ten lovely ladies. Each one at my disposal. Ten willing and able tour guides into the theme park of love.
(glances at his list again)
But who will it be? Which of you gorgeous ten will be 'da lucky one ...

Kenny excitedly notices someone off screen. Heading his way. He smiles coolly and poses against the sofa. A hot BLONDE enters frame.

KENNY
Yo, Corinne, whassup baby -- ?

She walks right on by, not even acknowledging him. Undaunted, he casually CROSSES her name off his list.

KENNY (V.O.)
Nine. Which of you gorgeous nine ...

He fixes his hair and continues to scope the room, confident.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

William enters the kitchen cautiously. He looks around at all of partiers intimidated. He APOLOGIZES to EVERYONE he BRUSHES UP against. He walks up to the crowd of KIDS at the KEG, and addresses the GUY at the tap.

WILLIAM
Excuse me, is this the beer?

The guy at the keg looks at him.

KEG GUY
What the hell does it look like, asswipe?

WILLIAM
Oh, right. Sorry.

KEG GUY
(annoyed)
Do you want one?

WILLIAM
Uh ... yes! Of course.

William tries to laugh casually. He takes his beer and holds it carefully. Like it's gonna explode. He looks around and then TAKES A SIP. He immediately SPITS IT OUT.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
My god! Nobody drink it! It's awful --
I think it's gone bad!

Everybody looks at William. They all taste their beers.

BEER DRINKER #1
Tastes like beer to me.

BEER DRINKER #2
Me too.

BEER DRINKER #3
Mine's fine.

They're still looking at William.

BEER DRINKER #1
Hey -- aren't you the guy who crapped his pants in the cafeteria freshman year?

Panicked, William starts DRINKING, almost hiding behind his cup. Worried they're all staring, he downs the WHOLE BEER. He GASPS when he's drained it.

William looks at his empty cup. He pulls out his CHART and checks it. Looks back at the cup, then up at the keg guy.

WILLIAM
Can I get another?

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda is still sitting on the chaise, surrounded by the girlfriends.

AMANDA
Seriously, guys. I'm fine. Really.

GIRLFRIEND #3
(defending Amanda)
She's right. You know? I mean, getting
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

GIRLFRIEND #3 (cont'd)
dumped by Mike Dexter is not necessarily the end of the world.

Girlfriend #2 SCOFFS. Amanda looks at her accusingly.

AMANDA
And what did that mean?

GIRLFRIEND #2
Nothing. Sorry. It's just ... Well he is the most dope guy in school ...

AMANDA
Yeah, and school's over.

The Girlfriends exchange confused glances, as if this fact is far too absurd for them to comprehend. There's a brief silence. Girlfriend #1 tries to be supportive.

GIRLFRIEND #1
Anyway, who does he think he is, Brad Pitt?

GIRLFRIEND #2
Seriously. I mean, you're like his Gwyneth.

GIRLFRIEND #3
Seriously. I mean you know he's miserable without her.

Amanda forces a smile. She really doesn't need this.

AMANDA
That's sweet of you guys, but I really--

GIRLFRIEND #1
No! We mean it! You are so Gwyneth!

GIRLFRIEND #2
Totally Gwyneth! But prettier.

GIRLFRIEND #3
Totally prettier! With bigger boobs!

GIRLFRIEND #1
Totally bigger boobs.

AMANDA
You know, I think I may need to get some air ...

CONTINUED: (2)

GIRLFRIEND #2
(not even listening)
Well, he's sure no Brad.

The girls all agree. Totally. Seriously.

GIRLFRIEND #1
He's not even Brad in "12 Monkeys" when he was all dirty with that weird eye.

The girls agree on that, too.

GIRLFRIEND #3
Mike Dexter doesn't even deserve to share airspace with Brad!

The girls CHEER. We've got a little rally going.

GIRLFRIEND #1
Mike Dexter is an asshole!

They all cheer again and HUG Amanda. She wriggles away.

AMANDA
Look, I don't wanna talk about this.

She gets up and walks off. Girlfriend #2 looks at the others.

GIRLFRIEND #2
I don't think she's prettier than Gwyneth.

GIRLFRIEND #1
(calling after Amanda)
Amanda! Wait!

INT. DOORWAY - SAME

Preston has been LEANING in the DOORWAY, eavesdropping. He sees Amanda WALKING his way and he DUCKS back out of view. He TURNS AROUND to escape and WALKS right INTO A LARGE PLANT. Amanda walks past, not even seeing him. Then Preston TURNS AWAY from the plant and...BOOM -- knocks RIGHT INTO one of the Girlfriends.

They all look at him, annoyed.

GIRLFRIEND #3
Watch it!

GIRLFRIEND #2
What are you doing?

CONTINUED:

GIRLFRIEND #1
Freak!

The Girlfriends hurry off after Amanda. Preston shakes his head.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Kenny approaches his next prospect: ASHLEY, a PERKY BRUNETTE.

KENNY
Ashley. My, you look beautiful.

ASHLEY
Oh. Thanks.

KENNY
You know, I was reminiscing today. And I thought about that time at Lynn Eckert's party in seventh grade. Remember that? We were all playing Spin The Bottle?

ASHLEY
(uncertain)
Uh ... I guess so.

KENNY
You and me, we never did get to kiss -- but I had a pretty vivid flashback of you staring at me all night. Right? Kinda giggling a little with your friends?

Kenny LAUGHS coyly. Ashley looks a little confused, then remembers.

ASHLEY
Oh ... I do remember! You were eating Cheetos and all that --
(she gestures)
-- orange stuff was stuck in your braces.

She LAUGHS along with Kenny, reminiscing.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Yeah, and no one wanted to tell you so you just kept eating them ... God, me and Lynn thought that was the funniest!

Kenny's laughter fades. He tries to mask his embarrassment. Ashley's looking off screen.

CONTINUED:

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Lynn! C'mere! I'm telling Kenny about how we used to call him Chester Cheetah!

Lynn enters and laughs with Ashley. So do a few more kids. Even the EXCHANGE STUDENT laughs at him. Kenny gets defensive.

KENNY
(to Exchange student)
What are you laughin' at?

Kenny walks off. He surreptitiously REACHES into his pocket, and CROSSES a name off the pad.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Not a problem. Eight more.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Kenny saunters up to a vacant-looking CHEERLEADER TYPE. This is STEPHANIE. She's STARING off into the crowd.

KENNY
Hey, Stephanie.

She doesn't even look at him. Just keeps staring.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Damn, it is *noisy* in here. Wanna go talk outside?

There's a brief DELAY, then she answers in a MONOTONE.

STEPHANIE
Okay.

Stephanie doesn't move. Kenny looks at her oddly.

KENNY
Do you ... want a drink?

There's another DELAY. Then she answers in the SAME VOICE:

STEPHANIE
Okay.

KENNY
How 'bout if I ... poison it?

STEPHANIE
Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kenny smiles. He's got an idea.

KENNY
Whaddaya say we ... go upstairs, get naked and --

A SHORT GIRL comes rushing up, interrupting him.

SHORT GIRL
Stephanie!

She looks at Kenny, relieved.

SHORT GIRL (CONT'D)
Thank god you found her! She took three thingies of herbal ecstasy and wandered off! She's so out of it anything could have happened! And she probably wouldn't even remember!

Kenny shakes his head. Damn.

SHORT GIRL (CONT'D)
(to Stephanie)
C'mon honey, I'm gonna take you to the car.

STEPHANIE
Okay.

As they exit, Kenny crosses another name off his list.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Kenny sidles up to JANA, a good-looking REDHEAD. She's talking to a friend.

KENNY
Hello, ladies.

They both look at him and give quick, fake smiles, then continue talking. Kenny inches closer to Jana.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Jana. Wanna dance?

JANA
Sorry, I'm allergic.

KENNY
Allergic to ... dancing.

CONTINUED:

JANA
Yeah.

Jana walks away. Kenny turns to talk to Jana's FRIEND, but she WALKS AWAY too. He stands there, ALONE.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

William DOWNS another beer. Puts the cup on the counter next to THREE OTHER EMPTY CUPS. He pulls the chart out and looks at it.

WILLIAM'S POV: The chart is completely OUT OF FOCUS.

William turns the card upside down and sideways and then finally CRUMPLES IT UP and TOSSES IT AWAY. He sees THREE GUYS ROLL a NEW KEG past him.

WILLIAM
Hey ... where're you goin' with that?

He follows the keg.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda's surrounded by the Girlfriends. They've got her cornered.

GIRLFRIEND #1
You know, maybe if you apologized, Mike would take you back.

AMANDA
(annoyed)
Apologize? God! You guys just don't get it, do you?

The Girlfriends exchange glances at Amanda's tone.

GIRLFRIEND #3
Well jeez, we're just trying to help.

AMANDA
Well you're not. So I'd just really like to be alone, okay?

GIRLFRIEND #2
Fine! God, Amanda ...

They start WALKING AWAY.

GIRLFRIEND #1
Jeez, what's up her ass?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIRLFRIEND #2
(laughs)
Not Mike Dexter anymore.

They laugh and exit. Amanda looks disgusted. She stands by the wall, alone.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Preston is looking around the crowd in the den. An energetic GUY bounds up to him.

REMINISCING GUY
Preston! Aw man, I'm so glad I got to see you! I know you're leaving tomorrow and like --

He SMACKS himself in the forehead.

REMINISCING GUY
Man! I'm like totally gonna miss you!

PRESTON
Gee. Well, thanks.

He tries to keep walking. Reminiscing Guy won't let him.

REMINISCING GUY
Like, I was totally remembering that time in seventh grade, when we mashed up all the food on our lunch trays and you paid me a dollar to eat it?! And I did?! That was so funny!

Preston forces a LAUGH.

PRESTON
Oh yeah ... Good times, good times ...

Preston walks out, into the living room. Reminiscing Guy calls after him, still laughing.

REMINISCING GUY
And remember that time after the field trip to the meat packing plant and Ricky Feldman threw up on the seat next to you! It got all in your bookbag!
(Preston's gone)
Man, was that funniest or what?!

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Preston enters the room and spots Amanda. ALONE, by the SNACK TABLE. He steels himself and makes his way over.

Preston makes it to the table. Amanda's at the opposite end, looking off in another direction. Preston tries to casually make his way around the table, getting closer and closer to her. Trying to seem relaxed, he picks up a PRETZEL and takes a bite. He's only a few feet away from her when she TURNS AROUND and MAKES EYE CONTACT with Preston.

SURPRISED, he SWALLOWS the pretzel, but it GETS STUCK IN HIS THROAT. Amanda's looking right at him. Preston starts COUGHING. She looks at him curiously. Preston tries to SMILE at her but has to TURN AROUND, because he can't stop CHOKING on the pretzel.

He quickly grabs a SODA off the table. Downs it immediately. But it just makes things worse. Now he's choking and SODA IS SPILLING EVERYWHERE. He looks like he's FOAMING AT THE MOUTH. A PANICKY GIRL at the table SCREAMS.

PANICKY GIRL
Oh my god! He's having a seizure!

Other KIDS RUN over to the table.

PANICKY GIRL (CONT'D)
Somebody grab his tongue!

Kids start reaching for Preston's face. Amanda moves forward to come to his aid, but is stopped by COUSIN RON, a slightly dorky-looking guy in khakis. He seems very GENUINE and OVERLY CONCERNED.

COUSIN RON
Amanda, hey ... I just heard you and Mike broke up!

He DRAPES an ARM around her shoulders. Amanda looks distracted.

COUSIN RON
I can't believe you didn't tell me! We're family!

AMANDA
(glancing at Preston)
We're second cousins ...

COUSIN RON
I know, we should be able to talk about these things!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amanda GLANCES back again as Ron LEADS her out of the room. Meanwhile, Preston finally STOPS choking. The Girl Whose Party It Is comes running over to Preston.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Is somebody dying?! Nobody better die in my house!!
(looks down)
AND WHO THE HELL SPILLED SODA EVERYWHERE?!

Disappointed that Preston's not going to die, the crowd disperses. Preston looks around for Amanda. She's gone.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kenny looks at his list. All the names are CROSSED OFF. He THROWS THE LIST OUT and stands by the trash for a moment, alone. The White Homeboys walk over to him.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Yo, cheeze! Whassup?!

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
Yeah. Shouldn't you be gettin' your freak on now?

KENNY
Yo, man I'm jus keepin' it real, you know whatum sayin'?. Jus bangin' while those two bitches over there scratch it out over who gets to knock boots with me.

The White Homeboys look around.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
What two bitches?

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
I don't see no bitches.

Kenny SHOVES him, defensive.

KENNY
Yo, you callin' me a liar?!

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
(shoves back)
Who you shovin', nigga?

Kenny backs down and shakes his head.

CONTINUED:

KENNY
Damn. Why you gotta waste my flava?

Kenny walks off. The homeboys scoff.

As he exits, Kenny passes one of Mike's Jock friends, MAKING OUT with his GIRLFRIEND in the doorway.

Mike walks up to them, looking very annoyed.

MIKE
Dude. Can I talk to you?

He pulls him away from his girl, who turns her back to Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)
(whispers)
What's goin' on? Did you do it?

JOCK #1
Yeah ... I'm workin on it, man.

MIKE
Well come on! I just saw a whole jeepful of hot chicks pull up. They're from another school and they'd be all over our shit in two seconds, man!

JOCK #1
Yeah well ... I don't know, Mike. Beth's parents are away and she was kinda thinkin' we could stay there tonight -- you know, and ...

Mike looks exasperated.

MIKE
But what about the plan! You promised!

JOCK #1
I know, I know, but ... her parents' got a mirror over their bed ...

Mike looks at him. Pissed.

MIKE
Fine. I'll see what the other guys are up to. Maybe they got some balls.

Mike walks off. Jock #1 goes back to his girlfriend. They immediately start MAKING OUT again.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Denise is sitting ALONE on the couch SIFTING through the BOWL of M&M's -- picking out the BLUE ones and eating them. She looks around. Nobody seems to want to talk to her. Nobody's even looking at her. She goes back to the M&M's.

Suddenly, a SOMEWHAT SHY GIRL SITS DOWN next to Denise.

SOMEWHAT SHY GIRL
Hey ... weren't you in my language lab?

Denise brightens.

DENISE
Yeah. Yeah, I was.

Somewhat Shy Girl jumps up.

SOMEWHAT SHY GIRL
HA! See, I told you she went to our school! Pay up!

Formerly Shy Girl turns to a GROUP of FRIENDS who've been watching. They walk off together, EXCHANGING MONEY. Denise looks hurt. She gets up and walks away.

The camera moves past her to reveal ...

THE BAND, on stage, TUNING and going over the set. The Lead Singer finishes TYING a HEADLESS, PAINTED, NAKED BABY DOLL to his mic stand. The GUITAR PLAYER PUTS ON ONE OF THE T-SHIRTS. It has the name of the band on it: "PUBLIC ENEMA".

LEAD SINGER
(to Guitar Player)
What are you doin'?

GUITAR PLAYER
Wearin' one of our t-shirts. You know, for publicity.

LEAD SINGER
No, those are for the fans! The band doesn't wear its' own t-shirts!

GUITAR PLAYER
I like it. I think it's cool.

BASS PLAYER
Yeah I kinda like it too ...

He reaches for a t-shirt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEAD SINGER
NO!

The Drummer reaches behind his set.

DRUMMER
Well if they get to wear the shirts, maybe I should wear my hat ...

He puts on a HUGE COWBOY HAT. The Lead Singer can't believe it.

LEAD SINGER
What the hell is that?!

He tosses away his CIGARETTE in frustration.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: The CIGARETTE LANDS at the bottom of the CURTAINS in the next room. They start to burn and SMOKE ...

The Girl Whose Party It Is walks by and SCREAMS. She STAMPS OUT the smoke and picks up the butt. Before she can yell at anyone, she CURLS UP HER NOSE.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Do I smell *poop* ?
(sniffs)
Does someone have poop on their shoe?!
Oh my god! Who has poop on their shoe on my carpet?!

She starts going around the room, trying to LIFT UP EVERYBODY'S LEG to look at their shoes.

One of the feet she lifts up is Kenny's. He's clean. The Girl Whose Party It Is moves on. Kenny SLUMPS back in his chair, bored. Suddenly, he OVERHEARS TWO GIRLS behind him:

GIRL #1
Are you kidding me?!

GIRL #2
(crying)
No. And then I heard he slept with some--
Sophomore!

GIRL #1
Men! They always want a younger woman!
Who was she?

CONTINUED:

GIRL #2
(sniffling)
I don't know. But I'm gonna beat him at his own game.

GIRL #1
How?

GIRL #2
Well, I think I may just have sex with someone at this party -- and make sure Jason finds out!

Kenny's eyes WIDEN. He TILTS back in his CHAIR, trying to hear more.

GIRL #1
Right on! Empower yourself! Wait -- with who?

GIRL #2
Who cares? The -- the next guy who hits on me. Hell, maybe even the next guy who talks to me!

Kenny, shocked, LEANS BACK TOO FAR and FLIPS the chair over. THUD! He JUMPS UP in front of the two girls and casually runs his hands through his hair like none of that just happened. Cool, he looks at the ready-to-have-sex girl.

KENNY
Well I must've died and gone to heaven, 'cause I got an angel standin' right in front of me. You --
("noticing" her tears)
Are you crying? Aw, no! Sweetheart, you are far too fine to look so sad.

READY TO HAVE SEX GIRL
(sniffles, depressed)
Yeah, sure.

KENNY
Aw, now don't be that way. C'mon!
(he frowns)
It breaks my heart to see you like this. You tell me what Special K can do to make you feel better.

She looks to her friend, who SHRUGS her approval. He'll do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

READY TO HAVE SEX GIRL
(to Kenny)
Come out to the poolhouse with me.

Kenny tries to conceal his excitement.

KENNY
Of course I will, baby. Anything for you.

He looks down at his backpack/Love Kit.

KENNY (CONT'D)
I just need to -- could you just ...
Wait here? For one minute? And I
promise, I'll be right back.

He dashes off, then runs back. Looks at the girl again.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Don't move. Please don't move.

He RUNS off.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kenny rushes down the hallway, frantically unzipping his kit.

KENNY
Ah-ight. Bathroom. Pee, underarm check,
breath assure -- hold up. Do I put da
jimmy hat on now, in case she --

He stops when he sees ... a HUGE LINE of kids waiting at the BATHROOM. He groans. He anxiously takes his place in line as a guy with CRUTCHES AND A CAST tries to maneuver his way into the bathroom.

EXT. POOLHOUSE - NIGHT

The X-Files guys are on the roof, staring up at the sky.

X-FILES GUY #1
I think I just saw something.

X-FILES GUY #2
You did not.

X-FILES GUY #1
I swear -- it was like a blue streak. It
just whizzed by. I'm telling you, that
patch of sky right over those power lines
is like a superhighway of UFO activity.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

X-File #2 squints in that direction, but doesn't see anything. Frustrated, he looks at his watch and then over at the party house.

X-FILES GUY #2 (CONT'D)
I wonder how William's doing. I hope he's not having any trouble blending in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

We PAN along a line of BEEFY DRINKING GUYS. They're all DOWNING BEERS and chanting.

DRINKING GUYS
Bill! ... Bill! ... Bill! ... Bill! ...

We find William at the end of the line. He looks pretty soused. He SPRINKLES some SALT on a GIRL'S NECK, then looks up, puzzled.

WILLIAM
Wasn't there something I was supposed to do tonight?

He quickly shrugs off that thought and proceeds to LICK the salt off the girl. Another girl hands him a SHOT OF TEQUILA which he DOWNS. He quickly SUCKS a LIME WEDGE from yet another GIRL'S MOUTH. The group CHEERS WILDLY. Bill WOBBLES joyously.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I can't feel my legs! I have no legs!!!

The group CHEERS again.

INT. FANCY ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda is sitting on the sofa, talking with COUSIN RON.

COUSIN RON
You know, Amanda -- I know we're not all that close, but you could've called me. I happen to be a great listener.

He seems really sincere. Amanda smiles.

AMANDA
Thanks. It's just -- well I mean, it all just happened. I'm still trying to -- sort it all out, you know?

COUSIN RON
Sure.
(confidentially)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUSIN RON (cont'd)
But if you ask me I never really saw you two together in the first place.

AMANDA
Yeah ... You and me both.

COUSIN RON
What?

AMANDA
(sighs)
Well ... I mean I know *why* I started dating him. I just don't know why I did it for so long.

Ron looks confused. Amanda explains.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
It's just at first it was all so unbelievable. At my old junior high I was always just this little ... nobody. Then I came to Huntingdon freshman year and Mike Dexter wanted to date me ... and I was like suddenly Miss Popular and -- I know it's really lame, but ... well, it felt really good. It was the first time I ever felt cool in my life. Please, it was the first time I ever had a boyfriend.

COUSIN RON
So what happened?

AMANDA
Nothing. And that's the problem. I mean, Mike's the same person <u>now</u> that he was then. Mooning the guy at the drive-thru window and giving the underclassmen wedgies ...

Ron CRINGES. As if he was once a victim of that himself.

COUSIN RON
Yeah, I've uh ... heard he does that.

AMANDA
And I mean, I know girls mature faster than guys, but -- come on.

COUSIN RON
So why didn't <u>you</u> just break up with him?

She looks at him, suddenly guilty.

CONTINUED: (2)

AMANDA
I was scared.
(she pauses)
Of being alone.

COUSIN RON
Alone? Do you know how many guys in school wanna be with you?

AMANDA
Seriously? I mean, then how come they never ask? It's like nobody else has even tried. Believe me, I would've loved it if some other guy had just come up to me in the hall and in a very romantic and charming and un-Mike-Dexter way just ... asked me out. But no one ever did.

Amanda looks as if she feels she's revealed a bit too much. She laughs.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Maybe they were all just scared Mike would beat them up ...

EXT. PARTY HOUSE BACKYARD - NIGHT

Preston sits by the pool, DIPPING a BEACH TOWEL IN THE WATER, using it to clean his SODA STAINED shirt. He's talking to somebody offscreen.

PRESTON
... And you know, all the great literary heroes were guys who loved from afar. Look at "The Great Gatsby", "Wuthering Heights", "A Tale of Two Cities' ...
(thinks)
All right, so most of them died tragically, alone or beheaded -- but the point is, they <u>loved</u>. You know? I mean, you have no idea how much I wanna be with this girl. She's just so ...
(searching for the word)
She just <u>is</u>. I mean, sure she's beautiful -- but did you know she also volunteers at a day-care center? That makes her beautiful <u>and</u> giving. <u>And</u> she led the school recycling drive -- so she loves the environment, too! I mean, how perfect can one girl get?

Preston leans back, thoughtful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PRESTON (CONT'D)
And I know that like, if I tried to tell her this in person it would never come out right and I'm always much better when I can write things down -- So that's what the letter is for. Once I give her this...

He pulls out the letter out and holds it up.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
This is everything I've been wanting to say to her for the past four years. This is like, every single reason why I love her. Like how my heart stops every time I see her. And how when she smiles it's like, there's nothing more beautiful in the whole world.

He looks down at the letter, serious.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
And how if for one minute ... just one minute, we could be together ... Well, there'd be nothing I could ever want more.

Preston grins. Looks at his off-screen friend.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
That's good, isn't it? I really think she's gonna love it. And I think I'm ready to do this. It's time.
(a beat)
Any words of encouragement?

We PULL BACK to reveal: The EXCHANGE STUDENT. He's been sitting beside Preston this entire time. He smiles.

EXCHANGE STUDENT
(thick accent)
Would you like to touch my penis?

Preston's taken aback.

PRESTON
Right. I see.
(gets up)
Well I appreciate the invitation and I'm flattered, but I think I should probably try and find Amanda again. Yeah ...

He walks off. The Exchange student calls after him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

EXCHANGE STUDENT
I am a sex machine!

The Crying Drunk Girl wobbles into frame. She looks at the Exchange Student.

CRYING DRUNK GIRL
(subtitled)
I'd like to touch your penis.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mike stands in the hallway with two more jocks. He looks pissed.

MIKE
So did you break up with 'em or not?

JOCK #2
We will, man, I promise. But her dad got us all tickets to see U2 ... so we're gonna do it right after the concert.

MIKE
When's the concert?

JOCK #3
August.

MIKE
Aw, you guys suck!

JOCK #2
(apologetic)
They're really good seats ...

They walk back into the FANCY ROOM where their Girlfriends are waiting. Mike watches as the two couples start MAKING OUT. He walks away alone.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kenny is still waiting in the endless line for the bathroom. The guy with the CRUTCHES finally leaves, and a GIRL enters the bathroom. Just as she's about to shut the door, we HEAR:

SQUEALY GIRL
Jen! Wait for us!

And about a DOZEN GIRLS PILE INTO the bathroom. The door shuts and we can hear the girls giggling inside. Kenny GROANS and angrily gets out of line.

INT. PARTY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Girl Whose Party It Is is standing in front of her FAMILY's PORTRAIT, which hangs over the fireplace. Someone has DRAWN NIPPLES on her MOTHER, and a big THOUGHT BUBBLE coming from her FATHER's mouth reading "I REALLY LIKE BOYS".

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
(shrieking)
Who did this?! WHO DID THIS?!

Kenny approaches.

KENNY
Look, is there another bathroom upstairs because the line here's really long and I really have to go.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
No one's allowed upstairs! WHO DID THIS?!

KENNY
(looking at portrait)
You know, I thought I saw that exchange student carrying a black magic marker.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
That little foreign dick! All right -- you can go upstairs! But just you!

Kenny BOLTS out of the room. The Party Girl calls after him:

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Hey, don't close the door all the way! It's sort of broken!
(looks around, pissed)
Where are you, you Belgian freak?!

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kenny races down the hallway to the bathroom. He opens the door and dashes inside -- carefully LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN A CRACK.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

William is surrounded by a group of STONERS. He's SMOKING A CIGARETTE and BLOWING PERFECT SMOKE RINGS.

STONER #1
Whoaaa ... how d'ya do that, bro?

WILLIAM
Physics, my friend. Simple physics ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

William blows a SMALLER RING right through a LARGER RING. The stoners APPLAUD in wonder.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Denise, incredibly bored, stands by the bookcase, looking sideways at the book titles. She's ready to leave. She walks towards the foyer.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

A HIPPIE KID takes a BITE out of a BROWNIE. He chews and SPITS it OUT, disgusted.

HIPPIE KID #1
Dude! You're not supposed to put the weed in the brownie, you're supposed to melt it into the butter!

He TOSSES the rest of the brownie away in dismay ...

Across the foyer, the BROWNIE sails through the air and HITS Denise in the SIDE OF THE FACE. CHOCOLATE GOOP is splattered all over her glasses. She looks around, embarrassed. Hippie Kid #2 ROSES OVER to collect the BROWNIE PIECES at her feet.

HIPPIE KID #2
(to Hippie Kid #1)
Dude! We could still smoke this!

He RUNS OFF, never even acknowledging Denise. She looks pissed.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kenny rifles through his Love Kit on the counter. Checks under both arms. All clear. Checks his teeth. Good. Takes out the KAMA SUTRA and leafs to a couple of favorite POSITIONS he's marked off.

As he reads, he grabs a handful of BREATH ASSURE and throws them in his mouth. He grabs a PAPER CUP from beside the sink and fills it. Just as he's ABSENTMINDEDLY bringing it to his lips, he 'rehearses' a particularly challenging POSITION, LIFTING his LEG sideways in a very awkward manner. He loses his balance and SLIPS -- grabbing the sink and TOSSING the cup of water into the air. SPLASH!

Mouth still full of pills, he looks down at the crotch of his pants. SOAKED.

KENNY
(garbled)
Aw, man ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He looks under the sink and finds a HAIR DRYER. He quickly PLUGS IT IN, then points it at his pants. It HEATS up pretty fast, because he YELLS and JUMPS as he nearly scalds that very delicate area. He DROPS HIS PANTS so he can dry them away from his body. Really hurrying now, he GRABS the STRIPS of CONDOMS. With one hand drying his pants, he tries to use his TEETH to RIP a few condoms from each strip.

Which is when the DOOR OPENS.

It's DENISE -- still smeared in chocolate. She looks up to see Kenny, pants around his knees, hair dryer in hand, condoms dangling from his mouth and an open Kama Sutra. She SCREAMS. So does Kenny. The condoms DROP. Breath Assure FLY out of his mouth. Denise SCREAMS again. Kenny quickly PULLS up his pants as he yells:

KENNY
SHUT THE DOOR!

Panicking (and still screaming), she does. Except, she shuts it from inside the bathroom. Kenny screams at her:

KENNY (CONT'D)
NO! I MEAN GET OUT!

Denise quickly turns and GRABS the door HANDLE. It doesn't work.

DENISE
I can't!

Kenny rushes over to the door and WRESTLES with the HANDLE. It FALLS OFF IN HIS HAND. Kenny and Denise LOOK DOWN at the handle. They LOOK AT EACH OTHER, horrified. They immediately TURN to the door and begin BANGING and SCREAMING their lungs out.

KENNY & DENISE
REEEELLLLLPPP!!!!

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

All we can hear is the BLASTING MUSIC and LOUD KIDS. NOT A TRACE OF KENNY & DENISE'S SCREAMS.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Preston hovers by the back door, preparing to go inside. He stops a KID with an ARMLOAD of REDDI-WHIP CANS on his way out of the house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESTON
Hey, have you seen Amanda Beckett?

REDDI-WHIP KID
Uh...yeah, man. I just saw her. I think she's in that fancy room in there. Hey, did'ya hear Mike Dexter broke up with her? I'm thinkin' 'bout askin' her out.

He walks off with his cans. Preston looks down at the letter, even more determined to do this now. He enters the house.

INT. FANCY ROOM - SAME

Amanda and Cousin Ron are still sitting on the sofa. Amanda leans back and sighs.

AMANDA
Thanks for listening. I probably sound really whiny, huh? I got to be Prom Queen -- everyone's gotta <u>care</u> all about me too? God, I should just shut up.

COUSIN RON
Well, I care ...

AMANDA
That doesn't count. We're family.

COUSIN RON
Only through marriage.

INT. DEN - SAME

We see Preston weaving his way through the CROWD. He's searching for her ...

INT. FANCY ROOM - SAME

Cousin Ron is moving closer to Amanda. She doesn't notice.

COUSIN RON (CONT'D)
You know, I feel really close to you now, Amanda.

At this, she turns and looks at him oddly. Ron takes this as an invitation and suddenly pounces on Amanda, KISSING her passionately.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Preston is turning to enter the fancy room ...

INT. FANCY ROOM - NIGHT

Preston ENTERS to see Amanda and Ron, KISSING on the sofa. He freezes. Looks at them, and then down at the LETTER in his hand. He quickly TURNS and EXITS.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Preston looks devastated. He STUMBLES to the front door.

INT. FANCY ROOM - SAME

A very angry Amanda SHOVES Ron off of her.

AMANDA
What are you doing?!!

COUSIN RON
(mauling her)
I care about you --

AMANDA
What?! Get off!

COUSIN RON
Come on baby, it's okay ...

AMANDA
You -- You're disgusting!

She breaks away, livid. Ron reaches for her.

COUSIN RON
Oh come on, you were begging me to! "I just want some guy to ask me..."

AMANDA
I was just talking to you! And --
(wiping her mouth)
You're my cousin!

COUSIN RON
Through marriage!

She stands.

AMANDA
Whatever! You're sick!!

She walks off. COUSIN RON looks panicked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUSIN RON
Shit.
(calling after her)
You're not gonna tell my parents about this --?

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - FRONT

Preston, still clutching the letter, stumbles out of the party.

He passes the Girl Whose Party It Is -- she's finishing shoving a HUGE TRASH BAG into a GARBAGE BIN.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
These people are such pigs!

She STOMPS back to the house. Preston STOPS. Looks at the LETTER in his hand, and then back at the house. He walks over to the GARBAGE BIN and THROWS the LETTER inside.

Preston sadly walks off into the night.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kenny stops banging on the door and SLUMPS against it, exhausted. Denise is at the sink, DRYING OFF her glasses.

DENISE
Satisfied? I told you no one can hear us.

Kenny looks at her, growls, and looks at the door one more time. Then he BACKS UP, and RUNS RIGHT FOR IT.

CRUNCH! He HITS the door and DROPS to the ground with a sickening THUD. Denise SMILES. Kenny glares up at her.

KENNY
Woman, this is all your fault!

DENISE
Oh really?

KENNY
You're all barging in here like a freaking moose --

He IMITATES her startled SCREAMS.

DENISE
Believe me, if I'd known you'd be in here half-naked pleasuring yourself with a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE (cont'd)
hair dryer and a porno book I definitely would've gone elsewhere!

KENNY
That's not what I was doing!

DENISE
(scoffs)
You could've fooled me.

KENNY
I was gettin' my shit ready!

DENISE
Your "shit"?

KENNY
Yeah! For your information, I got a super mad honey downstairs who's waiting, no, dying to have sex with me!

He POUNDS on the door again to no avail.

DENISE
There's no "honey" dying to have sex with you.

KENNY
Is so.

DENISE
Okay.

KENNY
There is!

DENISE
I believe you.

KENNY
Hey, you don't have to, okay? She's down there! She's down there right now, wondering where the hell I went and when the hell I'll be back to rock her world!

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY HOUSE DEN - NIGHT

The Ready To Have Sex Girl is PASSIONATELY KISSING another guy.

READY TO HAVE SEX GIRL
Oh, Jason, I never should have believed those rumors. Let's never fight again...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JASON
Never, baby ... when I heard you were going off with some other guy I got so jealous...

READY TO HAVE SEX GIRL
What other guy ...?

More HEAVY KISSING.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Mike walks up to a couple of PRETTY GIRLS on the patio.

MIKE
'Sup?

The girls turn to Mike. He's acting ultra-cool.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You know, I've got some news you two might be interested in.

GIRL #1
Really? What's that?

MIKE
That I recently became single.

GIRL #2
And?

Mike flashes a charming smile.

MIKE
I just thought you two might be interested.

GIRL #1
In what?

MIKE
Well, I just remember Jeff Gurner saying you guys told him I was one of the hottest seniors in the school.

GIRL #2
Yeah and I remember Jeff Gurner saying you told him we were skanky.

MIKE
He told you that?

CONTINUED:

They nod.

MIKE (CONT'D)
(aside)
Dick.
(back to them)
Well, obviously my opinion has changed since then ...

GIRL #1
Yeah, well so has ours.

They get up and walk off.

GIRL #2
Jeez, be a little more desperate.

GIRL #1
Loser.

Mike is still crouched next to the two empty chairs.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

The BAND is still arguing.

LEAD SINGER
Will you take off the goddamn hat?! You look like Garth Brooks in that thing!

DRUMMER
I do not. I look good. Besides, do you know how many records Garth Brooks sells?

GUITAR PLAYER
And he doesn't even wear his own t-shirts!

The Bass Player, now wearing a t-shirt, nods. The Lead Singer throws down his MIC in anger.

LEAD SINGER
That's it. You guys are a bunch of amateurs! I quit!

He storms off. The Drummer looks at the Guitar Player.

DRUMMER
Nice goin', man. Why didn't you just take off the t-shirt?

CONTINUED:

GUITAR PLAYER
Me?! We were fine 'till you pulled out the stupid hat!

DRUMMER
It's not stupid! This hat is really cool!

He gets up and walks off, offended. The Bass Player looks at the Guitar Player.

BASS PLAYER
Way to go, man!

GUITAR PLAYER
Screw you!

They both drop their instruments and walk off in opposite directions. The stage is empty for a moment, until a lone HEADBANGER walks up to a MIC with a large BOOMBOX.

HEADBANGER
I'll be the band, dudes.

He pushes PLAY and the opening chords of VAN HALEN's "PANAMA" BLARES out. The headbanger starts playing AIR GUITAR. Kids start BOOING.

INT. FRONT PORCH - SAME

The Stoners are passing around a BONG made out of a MINI DARTH VADER HELMET. As one stoner INHALES the other EXHALES. It actually sounds like Darth Vader's breathing. William notices.

WILLIAM
The Dark Lord of the Sith. Cooool.

STONER #1
You want a hit?

He extends the bong just as William HEARS the Van Halen TUNE from the den.

WILLIAM
Hey! I know this song! A kid I tutored in math used to make me listen to this!

He dashes into the house.

INT. DEN - SAME

William BOUNDS up to the stage and GRABS the mic. Shouts into it:

CONTINUED:

WILLIAM
WILD BILL! ROCK AND ROLL!

FEEDBACK. The crowd LAUGHS at the drunk, polo-shirted geek. But what they don't realize is, this isn't William. It's Wild Bill. He begins to SING along with the music.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
"Jump back! What's that sound? Here she comes, full-blast and top down! --"

William makes it through the first verse, GETTING A FEW OF THE WORDS WRONG, but he doesn't care. Neither does the crowd, who start to dance and CHEER William on.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
"Don't you know she's comin' home to me, you'll lose her in the turn --"

Hearing the cheering, PEOPLE START COMING IN from other rooms. Kids are SINGING along now.

WILLIAM AND KIDS
"PANAMA! PANAMA-AH! PANAMA! PANAMA-AH-OH-OH-OH-OH ...!"

EXT. POOLHOUSE - NIGHT

The X-Files guys are still on the roof. We can barely hear the music from across the backyard. X-Files Guy #1 POPS his RETAINER out of his mouth. He stares at it.

X-FILES GUY #1
You know, my retainer kinda looks like a Klingon warship.

X-Files Guy #2 looks at it. Nods.

INT. DEN - SAME

Everybody's singing along with William. He RIPS OFF HIS SHIRT. A few GIRLS CHEER. One YELLS to her friend.

GIRL #1
HE'S SO CUTE! DOES HE GO TO OUR SCHOOL?!

GIRL #2
OF COURSE! ... I SLEPT WITH HIM!

The song reaches David Lee Roth's "RAP" bridge. William GROWLS, the total rock-star:

CONTINUED:

WILLIAM
" -- Yeah we're runnin' a little bit hot tonight...I can barely see the road with the heat comin' off it...Ah you reach down, between my legs...ease the seat back --"

GIRL #1 jumps up on stage and starts PAWING at him. By the time the next "PANAMA!" is shouted, William STAGE DIVES and is PASSED AROUND by the crowd. People are going nuts.

YEARBOOK GIRL
BILL! BILL! SIGN MY YEARBOOK!

Someone GRABS it out of her hand and it gets PASSED around over the crowd.

YEARBOOK GIRL (CONT'D)
HEY!

People are MOSHING now. William is hoisted back onto the stage. THREE GIRLS GO-GO DANCE beside him. At the close of the song, one girl GRABS him and KISSES him PASSIONATELY. Everyone CHEERS.

EXT. PRESTON'S CAR - NIGHT

Preston drives aimlessly, sadly listening to the RADIO.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE
(on radio)
"This song goes out to Hope from her boyfriend Mel, who tells me that fate brought them together. Hope, I think this song's a sign that you and Mel were truly meant to be ...
(whispers, solemn)
It's about love."

The record plays -- it's the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love". Preston frowns as the Beatles chirp "*Love, love, love*" over and over. He drives on, depressed.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Yearbook Girl is frantically searching through the GARBAGE BIN.

YEARBOOK GIRL
I can't believe somebody threw it out! You don't throw away a yearbook! You're supposed to cherish it for the rest of your life!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She TOSSES a bunch of cups, cans and papers onto the ground, then FINDS her YEARBOOK.

YEARBOOK GIRL (CONT'D)
Oh thank god!
(upset)
Look at you!

She brushes some junk off of the yearbook and hugs it emotionally. As she walks into the house, we TILT DOWN to see: PRESTON'S LETTER, lying on the ground.

We hear FOOTSTEPS approaching -- a group of LAUGHING KIDS.

OFFSCREEN GIRL'S VOICE
Shit! I stepped in gum! And these are new shoes!

OFFSCREEN GUY VOICE
Fix it inside. We're already late.

We see their feet enter frame, and the GIRL's SHOE STICKS to Preston's LETTER. We FOLLOW the letter as she enters the house.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

The feet walk into the house with the letter still attached. The Gum Girl lifts her shoe and PEELS the letter OFF.

GUM GIRL (O.S.)
Ugh! This is disgusting!

The letter is THROWN to the ground. She walks OFF. Immediately, a group of GUYS ROLL A KEG through the foyer. It ROLLS over the letter, which sticks to the keg -- ROLLING into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The keg makes a TURN and the letter SHOOTS OFF to one side, LANDING by a guy with a BROOM. He's detailing a triumphant HOCKEY play.

HOCKEY GUY
And then I cut left, decked the crap outta the wing, and BOOM! Open net!

He SWINGS the broom, it HITS THE LETTER and sends it FLYING.

HOCKEY GUY (CONT'D)
SCORE!!!

CONTINUED:

The LETTER goes sailing over to Kenny's White Homeboys, who are standing by the stereo. White Homeboy #1 is trying to CUT AND SCRATCH on the turntable.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
"I got two turntables and a microphone--"

As he SPINS the vinyl, the LETTER LANDS on the turntable and SPINS OFF in ANOTHER DIRECTION. The letter finally LANDS on the COFFEE TABLE, right in front of ...

Amanda, sitting by herself. She doesn't notice the letter on the table ...

INT. PARTY HOUSE UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kenny and Denise sit in silence. They look miserable. Denise plays with the little GUEST SOAPS, stacking them into a pile. Kenny is LEANING up against the door, rhythmically, futilely KNOCKING his head against it.

DENISE
That feel good?

KENNY
Damn, woman! Why you gotta be such a raging bitch?

DENISE
Gee, I don't know -- I guess 'cause "you gotta be" such a self-obsessed phony.

KENNY
I ain't no phony!

DENISE
(not looking up)
Oh my god. Listen to you:
(imitates him)
"I ain't no phony." Hey, you know what? There's a mirror up there. Take a look -- you're white.

KENNY
So? What does that mean?

Denise looks up at Kenny like, "yeah, okay". She goes back to STACKING the soaps into a little house. Kenny waits a minute, then speaks carefully, in a VERY NORMAL VOICE.

KENNY (CONT'D)
I don't always talk that way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE
(sarcastic)
Oh, well you're okay then.

KENNY
(angry)
And how 'bout you? Miss Anti-Social, so much better than everybody else --

DENISE
I don't think I'm better -- !

She stops. He has a point, but she chooses to ignore it.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Anyway, why do you care what I think of you? You haven't spoken to me since sixth grade.

KENNY
Hey. You stopped speaking to me.

DENISE
Sure. Whatever you say.

KENNY
You got no --
(correcting himself)
You *have no* idea what you're talking about. That was a long time ago. You don't even know me anymore.

DENISE
Yes I do. I know exactly who you are.

Kenny starts fixing his hair, uneasy.

DENISE (CONT'D)
You're Kenny Fisher who used to play "Bionic Man" with me in my basement. You're Kenny Fisher who used to sleep over my house and needed to leave the hall light on all night. You're Kenny Fisher who used to buy me a card every Valentine's Day and a bag of those chalky hearts with the little words on them.

She puts down the soaps and looks at him.

DENISE (CONT'D)
And you're Kenny Fisher who suddenly became too cool to hang with me once we hit junior high. Because I had glasses,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DENISE (cont'd)
because I was smart, and because I didn't look good in those skimpy little bodysuit tops all the popular girls were wearing.

She looks down at the soaps again, a little bit sad.

DENISE (CONT'D)
And anyone who can ditch their best friend like that, in my opinion, is a big phony.

Kenny looks at her. He doesn't know what to say. They lapse into silence once again.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

William is being PULLED AT by TWO PRETTY GIRL GROUPIES.

GROUPIE #1
He's coming with me!

GROUPIE #2
No way! He asked me to hold his glasses case!

They start to struggle with each other.

WILLIAM
Ladies, ladies ... please. There's plenty of Bill to fill both your wallets.

He puts his arms around them and LEADS them BOTH into a DARK STAIRWELL. A sultry RED GLOW is visible through the doorway. TWO GOSSIPY GIRLS in the hallway see this and confer.

GOSSIPY GIRL #1
(shocked)
Did those girls just go into the makeout room with William Lutz?

GROUPIE #2
Yeah.
(dreamy)
They're so lucky.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda, looking around the room, finally NOTICES the envelope on the coffee table. She sees her NAME printed on the envelope and leans forward curiously. Picks it up, studies it. Then she opens the letter and begins to READ.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

First she seems merely CURIOUS, but as she reads on her expression grows more SERIOUS. She looks around to see if anybody is watching her.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The remnants of the previous day's graduation ceremony still remain: a HALF-HUNG BANNER, scattered PROGRAMS ... We TILT down to see Preston's CAR, parked by the gate. He's staring out at the at the field through his open window.

PRESTON (V.O.)
What the hell happened? She's not supposed to be with someone else. She's supposed to be with me. There was even that song on the radio! Wasn't that a sign? ... Unless Denise was right. Maybe that song was about his dog. So what, was I supposed to go out and buy a dog?
(scowls)
No. No. The song had to be a sign. It's not like you hear "Mandy" on the radio every day! I don't think I've heard it in like, ten years --

Suddenly, from the CAR RADIO:

D.J. (ON RADIO)
"... and since today was Barry Manilow's birthday, we'll be playing "Mandy" every hour, on the hour -- honoring the Man Who Writes The Songs, here on Star 97. ..."

Preston slumps over on the wheel.

PRESTON (V.O.)
Thank you. Thank you very much.

He bangs his head against the wheel in frustration.

D.J. (ON RADIO)
"... And coming up, a very special treat-- we've got the Man-i-low himself -- live, on the phone from his sold out show in Tokyo! He'll be spending a few minutes with STAR 97 talking live to you, his fans! So if you've got a question for Barry, why don't you call in, at 800-555-STAR? ..."

Preston looks up, determined. He SPEEDS off.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - NIGHT

Preston is in a PHONE BOOTH in the DESERTED SHOPPING CENTER. He quickly DIALS the pay phone ... and gets a BUSY SIGNAL. He HANGS UP and REDIALS.

EXT. POOLHOUSE ROOF - NIGHT

The X-Files guys are re-enacting a LIGHTSABER DUEL with their FLASHLIGHTS. Making LIGHTSABER SOUNDS.

X-FILES GUY #1
Obi-Wan never told you what happened to your father. I am your father.

X-FILES GUY #2
Nooo! That's not true! That's not possible!

X-Files Guy #1 SWINGS and #2 DROPS HIS FLASHLIGHT and TUCKS HIS HAND IN HIS SLEEVE -- imitating Luke's hand getting cut off. He HOWLS in agony.

X-FILES GUY #1
Join me. And together we can rule the universe as father and son!

X-FILES GUY #2
Never!

He PUSHES X-Files Guy #1 away, causing him to LOSE HIS GRIP on his FLASHLIGHT. It FALLS over the edge of the roof.

X-FILES GUY #1
Hey! Luke doesn't push Vader!

X-FILES GUY #2
Well he should have. The guy just cut off his hand.

They PEER over the roof's edge, down at their FLASHLIGHTS.

X-FILES GUY #1
Those were our only flashlights.

X-Files guy #2 looks around.

X-FILES GUY #2
Jeez, it's kinda dark up here, huh?

X-FILES GUY #1
(growing afraid)
Yeah ...

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kenny and Denise sit in silence. Finally, Kenny BLURTS:

KENNY
So what, were you like -- *saving* all that stuff up to tell me?!

Denise rolls her eyes. She doesn't even bother to answer.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Well jeez if it'd been on your mind for six years you'd think you would have mentioned something!

DENISE
Oh, really? When? When you were ignoring me in the halls? When you were writing "Denise Fleming is a lemming" on my locker freshman year?

KENNY
I didn't write "Denise Fleming is a lemming".

DENISE
Oh sure, just like you didn't break my Cabbage Patch doll in second grade.

Kenny smiles.

KENNY
Okay, now <u>that</u> I'll admit to doing. But it was pretty slick how I glued it back together like it never happened ...

Denise smiles a bit.

DENISE
Sure, and if you'd only used something a bit stronger than white school paste maybe I never would've noticed.
(laughs)
And it also would've helped if you'd kept a straight face when I picked her up and her head fell right off!

She laughs, remembering. Kenny joins in, then admits:

KENNY
Okay ... I told Jon Kieserman to write "Denise Fleming is a lemming" -- but I swear I felt really bad afterward.

DENISE
That's all right. I told Diana Yellin that you had a hair weave.

KENNY
That's why she wouldn't go to the Soph Hop with me ...!

They laugh together.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Mike is SITTING alone at one of the poolside tables. He has a bunch of empty beer cups in front of him. He DOWNS another and drunkenly starts checking the empties for any excess.

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey man, want a brew?

Mike looks up to see a GOOD-LOOKING, slightly older guy wearing a PENN STATE t-shirt.

MIKE
Trip McNeely! No way, man! Siddown!

TRIP sits next to Mike, placing a SIX-PACK of Busch on the table.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Trip McNeely. Whadd're you doing here?

TRIP MCNEELY
You know, stuff. Sayin' hi to some of the gang ... Hey, who's the chick with the super-short hair and the tits?

MIKE
Oh. That's Emily Greines.

TRIP MCNEELY
No shit? Man, she's a little hottie now.

Mike grunts and gives Trip a sly PUNCH in the arm

MIKE
She's prob'ly nothin' compared to all those <u>women</u> at Penn State, huh? Huh? I bet you got yourself a kick ass panty collection by now.

Trip looks at him, offended and somewhat defensive.

TRIP MCNEELY
Who told you I wore women's panties?

CONTINUED:

MIKE
What? No -- I meant, you know, gettin' laid, man. Jeez, you're a sexual icon. Girls at Huntington still talk about you! At college you must be cleanin' up!

Trip SIGHS and polishes off his second can.

TRIP MCNEELY
I wish, bro. I can't even get digits as a Freshman.

MIKE
Shut up.

TRIP MCNEELY
Seriously. Hey man, I thought college was gonna be the AM/PM of pussy. I thought I'd be writin' more true-life letters to "Hustler" than I would term papers. Hell, that's even why I broke up with Janine before I left.

Mike looks a little worried.

MIKE
So ... what happened?

TRIP MCNEELY
College women are totally different, bro. They're all serious and shit, talking about world issues and economogical stuff. And they all wanna date <u>older</u> guys.

MIKE
(hopeful)
Well ... not all of them, right?

Trip looks at Mike and shakes his head sadly.

TRIP MCNEELY
Way it goes, man.
(he BELCHES loudly)
Hell, I even tried getting Janine to take me back ... but she's all cozy with some Senior. He's pre-med. They all are. Guys like us are a dime a dozen ...
(drinks)
I'm tellin' ya, look out for that scrawny four-eyed kid who's ass you used to kick just for fun. In three years he'll be bangin' your girlfriend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Mike looks pale.

TRIP MCNEELY (CONT'D)
Hey speakin' of which, you still with that Amanda? Now there was a prize piece if I ever saw one.

MIKE
Uh ... yeah ...

Trip leans back and stretches. His t-shirt LIFTS up a bit to expose his Freshman Fifteen. In his case, twenty.

TRIP MCNEELY
You're lucky. Hold on to her, man. Best advice I can give. That, and bring those rubber flip-flops for the shower ...

Mike reels.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Amanda, still holding the LETTER, walks up to two GIRLS who are BRAIDING each other's HAIR. She addresses the braiding girl.

AMANDA
Hey. Do you guys know who Preston Greene is?

BRAIDING GIRL #1
Nope.

The girl being braided SHAKES HER HEAD, then YELPS as the braiding girl GRABS her head and forces it back to center. Amanda walks away.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - NIGHT

Preston is still in the phone booth -- and the line is still BUSY. He HANGS UP and DIALS AGAIN. In the background, we see a WHITE-ROBED FIGURE approaching the phone booth. Preston hangs up and begins to redial.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Excuse me, are you gonna be long?

Preston turns to see ... A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN dressed as an ANGEL. Halo, wings, the whole get-up. She holds up a QUARTER.

ANGEL
I just need to make one call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Preston eyes her suspiciously. This crackpot could tie up the phone for god knows how long ...

PRESTON
Jeez, you know I ... already put my money in. Sorry.

He turns back to the phone and quickly finishes dialing.

ANGEL
(annoyed)
It's sort of an emergency.

PRESTON
(waiting)
I'll only be a second ...

ANGEL
My car broke down and I just need to call a cab --

And finally, the phone actually RINGS through. Preston HOLDS UP his FINGER, motioning for the Angel to be quiet. She looks at him and his rude gesture in disbelief. Preston's eyes widen in anticipation as somebody PICKS UP.

VOICE (ON PHONE)
Star 97.

PRESTON (INTO PHONE)
Star 97! Finally! Okay, I have a really important question for Barry Manilow. In the song "Mandy", was he singing about --

The Angel REACHES into the phone booth and DISCONNECTS Preston's call. He looks at her, stunned.

PRESTON
What the -- ?
(into phone)
Hello?! HELLO?!

He clicks the line a few times but there's just a dial tone. He STEPS OUT of the booth, furious.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Why the hell did you do that?!

The Angel PUSHES past him, enters the booth and SLAMS the door SHUT. She starts MAKING HER CALL as Preston BANGS on the DOOR.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Hey! HEY!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He tries to OPEN the door but she BLOCKS it with her body.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
I WAS TALKING TO SOMEBODY!!

She finishes her call and OPENS the door. Steps out of the booth.

ANGEL
Okay, I'm done.

She walks past him and sits on a nearby BUS STOP BENCH. Preston walks over to her, furious.

PRESTON
Are you out of your mind?! You don't just hang up on somebody's call!

ANGEL
I think my emergency was a bit larger than yours, junior.

PRESTON
How do you know?! Do you have any idea how long it took me to --

He trails off, then GROANS, frustrated.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
This is great. Just great! Thank you. Thank you so much. This is now officially the worst night of my entire life.

ANGEL
Try having 40 drunk men grabbing your ass, one groom-to-be throwing up in your lap and your car breaking down at two in the morning and <u>then</u> you can talk to me about bad nights, okay?

Preston looks her up and down.

PRESTON
What, are you a stripper?

ANGEL
I'm a <u>dancer</u>.

PRESTON
An *angel* stripper?

CONTINUED: (3)

ANGEL
Don't look at me. You guys are the ones who request this stuff. Last night I had to be Mrs. Butterworth.

Preston makes a face.

PRESTON
Who's twisted enough to want to see a bottle of syrup take her clothes off?

ANGEL
I don't know. Who's twisted enough to be calling Barry Manilow at two AM from a phone booth?

Preston STOPS. She's right. It's pretty moronic. He shakes his head and SITS DOWN on the bench.

PRESTON
You're right. I'm a total loser.

The Angel looks at him. He looks really sad. She suddenly softens.

ANGEL
No. No ... Jeez. I'm sorry. God, I feel really bad now ...

She digs in her bag for another QUARTER. Holds it out.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
You know what? You should call him back. On me.

PRESTON
(scoffs)
No, seriously. I, I can't. The whole thing was ... it was stupid. Forget it.

ANGEL
Don't say that. And it's not stupid. I know, 'cause ... Well ... I -- I've been where you are.

Preston looks at her, quizzical. The Angel NODS, solemn.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
I was sixteen. And I had the biggest thing for Scott Baio ...

CONTINUED: (4)

PRESTON
Oh no, wait. You don't think I was --
(dumbfounded)
Scott Baio?

ANGEL
Yeah. And I mean, this was like, years in the running. I'm talking "Happy Days" era, "Joanie Loves Chachi" ... god, I hated her. Joanie ...

PRESTON
You were uh ... quite a fan.

ANGEL
See? I know. And like, I was so sure that I was supposed to marry him... Mrs. Scott Baio. I was in his fan club, I wrote him all these letters-- which I was way too embarrassed to send, by the way -- but I was positive that like, no matter what, we'd find each other. Somehow.

Preston looks at her. He's not sure what to make of this.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
And it happened. Right after his first season of "Charles in Charge", he was doing this mall tour. And he came here. To our mall. It was like it was .. supposed to happen. Like it was ...

PRESTON
Fate ...

ANGEL
Yeah. So I went, you know. And I had this red bandanna for him -- 'cause you know, Chachi always wore a red bandanna -- and I waited outside. Overnight. I was the first person there when he pulled up.

Preston seems very interested now. The Angel's getting emotional.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
And he got out of the car and, and it was like --
(she's getting teary)
-- He was so beautiful, and, he looked right at me and ... I didn't know what to do. I couldn't say anything. I couldn't even move ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

She wipes a tear away. Preston, growing uneasy, looks around for a tissue, and winds up handing her the SLEEVE of her angel ROBE. She WIPES HER NOSE and sniffles.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
I never even talked to him. I mean, he was right there. I was supposed to be with him. I still have that bandanna.

PRESTON
(trying to console her)
Um ... well, maybe it's better off. I mean, look, he kinda faded from view, you know.

ANGEL
I guess. And look, I've moved on. I have a really cool boyfriend now ...
(sniffles)
But you never know. If I'd at least just said something.

She wipes her eyes. Fixes her makeup. Sighs.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
I'll tell you, I totally realized... Fate. You know -- there is fate. But it only delivers you to the opportunity. Then it's just up to you to make it all happen.

Preston NODS. Realizing ...

PRESTON
You ... you are totally right ...

ANGEL
I know. So, look -- don't make the same mistake I did. If you really want to be with him, then get back on the phone and call Barry Manilow. You've gotta tell him how you feel.

He CAB PULLS UP. She stands.

PRESTON
Oh no, wait, no, I -- I don't want him, I was just --

ANGEL
It's okay. Look, I don't think it's weird. I mean, come on.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ANGEL (cont'd)
(holds her hands up)
Scott Baio. We all have our things.

She climbs into the cab. Preston doesn't bother trying to explain again. He smiles.

PRESTON
Okay. I will, then. Thanks.

ANGEL
Yeah. I'll see ya.

She waves sadly and the taxi pulls off into the night. Preston watches her and NODS, inspired. He GETS INTO HIS OWN CAR and DRIVES off for the party.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A drunken Mike urgently SEARCHES the crowd for Amanda. He GRABS a SKINNY GUY by the shirt.

MIKE
Have you seen Amanda Beckett?

SKINNY GUY
(croaks, terrified)
No?

Mike HURLS the guy aside, frustrated. He storms off, passing by the band, where we see ...

The Drummer, BREAKING DOWN his kit. Bass Player enters. Walks over and UNPLUGS his guitar. Then the Lead Singer, who starts to untie his baby doll from the mic stand. The Guitar Player passes by, CARRYING a PILE of T-SHIRTS. The Lead Singer looks at him.

LEAD SINGER
Hey. Think I could get a shirt?

Guitar Player TURNS, surprised. Lead Singer is sheepish.

LEAD SINGER (CONT'D)
You know, for nostalgia.

Guitar Player NODS and TOSSES him a shirt. Lead Singer holds it up, looks at it. He gets a little misty-eyed.

LEAD SINGER (CONT'D)
These are pretty cool ...

Guitar Player looks wistful.

GUITAR PLAYER
Those were the days, huh?

(CONTINUED)

Everyone nods solemnly, agreeing. There's a brief, awkward SILENCE. Bass Player looks around.

BASS PLAYER
What would you guys say to ... a reunion? You know. Nothing big. Maybe a few new songs. Mostly old stuff.

LEAD SINGER
I could be into that.

Drummer looks around, puts on his hat.

DRUMMER
Sure, why not?

The Guitar Player responds by plucking out the RIFF from Led Zeppelin's "BLACK DOG". Rock on.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE BACKYARD - NIGHT

Holding the letter, Amanda is standing in front of TWO GUYS who are describing Preston.

KNOW IT ALL #1
Wait. I know who Preston Greene is ...

Amanda looks surprised.

KNOW IT ALL #1
Isn't he that guy with the curly hair and glasses that looks like a white version of J.J. from "Good Times"?

KNOW IT ALL #2
No that's not him. Preston Greene's the guy with the lip piercing who looks like a fat Trent Reznor.

Amanda looks disappointed.

KNOW IT ALL #1
No, no! You know who he is? I think he's the dude who got the nose-job that makes him kinda look like Courtney Cox if she were a guy ...

Amanda walks away, frustrated. As she EXITS frame, she passes by Kenny's White Homeboys who are LOPING through the crowd, posturing and looking idiotic.

A GROUP of REAL HOMEBOYS are hanging out by the pool. The White Homeboys lope up to them, trying to bond.

CONTINUED:

WHITE HOMEBOY #2
How'z my boyz!!!

The Real Homeboys look at him, STONEFACED. White Homeboy #1 POSES for a HANDSHAKE.

WHITE HOMEBOY #1
Yo -- whassup, nigga?

There's an uncomfortable silence as the Real Homeboys EXCHANGE GLANCES, then suddenly CHARGE Kenny's friends. The White Homeboys RUN off, terrified, about to have their asses kicked.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mike enters the hallway. Looks around. No Amanda. He approaches the makeout room and tries to peer inside. It's too DARK. He stumbles down the stairs ...

INT. MAKEOUT ROOM - NIGHT

Mike descends into the shadowy room. We hear the sound of WET SLOPPY KISSING EVERYWHERE. Mike looks around at the different couples. He moves forward, but immediately steps on something.

VOICE FROM FLOOR (O.S.)
Ow! Hey, watch it!

MIKE
Shut up.

Mike strains to see through the darkness.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Amanda!

He's really loud. Some GUY yells at him.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Shut up, dick!

Mike turns around.

MIKE
Who said that? Who the hell said that?!

Mike can't see a thing.

MIKE (CONT'D)
I'm gonna kick your ass when I find you!

CONTINUED:

He TURNS ON THE LIGHT. EVERYBODY SHRIEKS and holds their hands over their eyes. Like VAMPIRES in the sunlight. It's an ugly scene. Smeared makeup. Unbuttoned clothing.

EVERYBODY
HEY! TURN OFF THE LIGHT! PERVERT!

William is on the couch between the two groupies. He SEES Mike and SITS UP. Everybody continues YELLING at Mike. William's groupies join in:

GROUPIE #1
Why don't you leave us alone?!

GROUPIE #2
Yeah, go whack off someplace else!

Everybody LAUGHS at that one. They chime in. "Yeah!" Mike backs away from the angry kids.

MIKE
Screw you all!

Mike runs upstairs. Somebody TURNS OFF THE LIGHT again and the kids CHEER. William watches Mike go. He struggles to his feet.

GROUPIE #1
Bill? Where're you goin'...?

WILLIAM
I jus' remembered somethin' I was supposta do ...

He STUMBLES after Mike, grinning.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Preston's car PULLS UP in front of the house. He GETS OUT, takes a moment to steel himself, and WALKS BACK up to the party.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Preston enters. At the far end of the den he spots Amanda -- LOOKING AROUND the room (Preston doesn't see the letter in her hand). Determined, Preston begins to cross over to her, when from off screen we HEAR:

MIKE (O.S.)
AMANDA!

Amanda TURNS, alarmed. Mike is PUSHING his way through the crowd towards her. Preston looks on, concerned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE (CONT'D)
AMANDA!

A few people start to stare as Mike reaches Amanda and HUGS her emotionally.

AMANDA
(squirming away)
Mike, what the --? Get off!

He takes a step back, embarrassed, and immediately tries to recover his cool.

MIKE
What. I can't hug my girlfriend if I want?

Amanda glares at him. Kids start calling FRIENDS over, hoping for a scene -- elbowing their way in front of Preston.

AMANDA
I am not your girlfriend. And you're obviously drunk, so --

She's trying to walk away. Mike jumps in front of her.

MIKE
No no no wait wait wait -- we ... We need to talk.

AMANDA
About what?

MIKE
Us.

AMANDA
There is no us.

MIKE
No, but there is, see -- I ... I've been doing some thinking -- a lot of thinking. And I think ... I think ...

Amanda waits impatiently for him to finish. We see William ELBOWING his way to the forefront of the crowd. Preston's craning his neck, trying to see ...

MIKE (CONT'D)
I think we should get back together.

Amanda looks at him blankly for a second. Preston's eyes WIDEN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AMANDA
Why?

MIKE
What?

AMANDA
Why? Give me one good reason why I should ... actually -- screw that. No. My answer is no.

Preston sighs. Yes!

MIKE
No? You mean you don't want me to take you back?

Amanda GASPS, furious. So do a few people in the crowd.

MIKE (CONT'D)
'Cause I'm serious, Amanda. You should really think about this ...

AMANDA
(pissed)
Think about what? That you're a childish, self-centered asshole? You wanna take me back? Please!

The crowd "OOOOES". Mike looks around, angry. Preston pushes his way to the STAIRS, hoping for a better view.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Look Mike, you're drunk and we're over, okay? So why don't you just save yourself the embarrassment and walk away now?

More "OOOOHS". William looks thrilled.

MIKE
You're the one who's gonna be embarrassed, Amanda! You'll be nothing without me! As a matter of fact, you already are nothing! You're -- you're -- used goods! What guy's gonna wanna be with you now, huh?!

Amanda folds the LETTER into her POCKET. Preston finally gets a good view from halfway up the stairs (still not seeing the letter). Amanda finally speaks calmly and without malice.

AMANDA
Somebody.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Preston smiles.

MIKE
Yeah, more like ... nobody!

He GRINS, proud of his quick retort. He TURNS AROUND, HOLDING his hands up to the crowd for approval. Amanda shakes her head, exasperated. Mike turns back to her, smug.

AMANDA
(dryly)
Gosh, you ... really got me there.

With that, she walks off through the crowd. Preston STRUGGLES to get back downstairs, past the OTHER KIDS to Amanda.

Mike stands there, alone and embarrassed. He glances around the crowd. Everybody is STARING at him. We hear a lone female VOICE from somewhere in the mob.

FEMALE VOICE
Fag.

Someone else CHUCKLES. Then other kids join in, LAUGHING at Mike. He SCOWLS, upset, then STORMS out of the room.

William grins and follows after Mike. Everyone goes back to partying.

INT. PARTY HOUSE UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Denise and Kenny are now both ... singing together. An off-key version of the NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK's "The Right Stuff".

KENNY & DENISE
"Whoa oh oh oh-o. Whoa oh oh-o. Whoa oh oh oh-o ... The right stuff!"

DENISE
(laughing)
You loooved the New Kids.

KENNY
(embarrassed)
Ugh -- those acid wash jeans --

DENISE
With the built-in rips ... You were a fashion victim from the womb.

KENNY
Thanks very much. I'd like to think I've improved somewhat since then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DENISE
(gestures at his huge pants)
Oh sure, 'cause you never know when you're gonna need to fit a family of five in your pants.

KENNY
Shut up. These are cool.

She looks at him for a moment.

DENISE
Seriously, I would lose the hair gel, though.

Kenny looks at her, then defiantly SCRUNCHES his hands around in his hair, TAKING OUT all the gel. He looks good, if a little disheveled. He looks at Denise.

KENNY
I'd lose the shoes.

DENISE
What's wrong with my shoes?

Kenny eyes them with disdain.

KENNY
Do they serve an orthopedic function?

DENISE
No.

Kenny looks at her like, "well, then." She sighs and takes off the shoes.

DENISE (CONT'D)
There. Better?

Kenny nods.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Okay. I get another one. That awful jacket.

KENNY
Snoop has this same jacket!

Denise raises an eyebrow. Kenny relents, takes off the jacket.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Okay. My turn.

CONTINUED: (2)

He leans forward and carefully REMOVES Denise's GLASSES. He studies her face.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Now I can ... see your eyes.

DENISE
I can't even tell if you have eyes.

She REACHES around blindly. Kenny GRABS her HAND right as it's about to hit him in the face. Then, impulsively, he KISSES it. Denise looks surprised.

DENISE (CONT'D)
What was that for?

KENNY
(shrugs)
Felt like it.

Denise NODS. After a moment, she LEANS FORWARD and KISSES Kenny on the CHEEK. She looks up at him.

DENISE
Felt like it.

They stare at one another for a moment, then KISS for real. It's mutual and very sweet, and there's definitely a lot of passion there as they sink back onto the ceramic tile ...

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Preston searches desperately for Amanda.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

Amanda makes her way into the den. She's immediately propositioned by a HORNY GUY.

HORNY GUY #1
Hey, Amanda, I just saw what happened. You know if you're feeling lonely you could always come over to my house later and I'm sure I could turn that frown upside down ...

Grossed out, Amanda keeps walking. She barely gets two steps when ...

HORNY GUY #2
Amanda, now that Mike's completely out of the picture, I thought maybe you'd want to come out to my van with me and ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She makes a face and moves on. Yet again ...

REMINISCING GUY
Hey, Amanda, remember when you let me dance with you at the soph hop? Well I never told you but I had the hugest boner and I just thought maybe we could finally finish things off --

AMANDA
Ew!!!

Amanda keeps walking. Preston sees her leave the room and rushes after her. It's difficult for him to get through the mob.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

William weaves drunkenly down the hallway. He checks his watch.

WILLIAM
Jeez, I hope the guys are still okay ...

EXT. POOLHOUSE ROOF - NIGHT

The X-Files guys are ASLEEP.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

William finally spots Mike leaning up against the FIREPLACE in the fancy room.

INT. FANCY ROOM - NIGHT

William steps into the room. He smiles -- prey in sight. Mike's back is turned and he's leaning on the mantle.

WILLIAM
Hey, Mike, man ... you gotta come outside. There's ... there's ...
(trying to recall)
What was it? Oh yeah -- there's these two chicks ... and they're outside -- and they want you to c'mout an' watch 'em...

Mike doesn't turn around. William takes a few steps closer.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
And you're not gonna believe what they're doin' to each other -- I mean, not 'cause I made it up, but 'cause it's so unbelievable that you've gotta c'm outside and see for yourself ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Still no reaction from Mike. William is right behind him.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
So c'mon ... don't you wanna c'mout to the poolhouse? Ta' watch? Now?

Suddenly Mike turns around. He's very DRUNK and UPSET. He throws himself at William.

MIKE
(highly emotional)
I'm a loser!

William looks stunned. Mike's head is on William's shoulder.

MIKE (CONT'D)
(slurring)
I broke up with the hottest girl in school ... my best friends all sold me out ... and everybody thinks I'm a dick!

Mike SHAKES HIS HEAD on William's shoulder. William looks around. He tentatively pats Mike on the back.

WILLIAM
No ... no ... thass -- not true ...?

MIKE
Yes it is! They all hate me! And who can blame 'em?

William shrugs. He keeps patting Mike. Mike sniffles.

WILLIAM
Well ... uh, you know, Mike ... some people say ... you reeep, you know, you reeeeep ... Reep.
(laughs)
Thass funny. But anyway, they say you reap what you sow.

Mike looks at him. Wipes his nose on his sleeve.

MIKE
Sew? I don't sew. Sewing's for pussys. Are you callin' me a pussy?

William takes a step back.

WILLIAM
Uh .. no! No.

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE
Oh, you're right. I probably am a pussy!

Mike THROWS himself DOWN on the couch. He MOANS, burying himself in the pillows. William looks down at him. This is pathetic.

Suddenly, a GROUP OF KIDS run up to the doorway. They look at William. (They can't see Mike -- the couch faces the other way).

KID #1
Hey somebody told us Mike Dexter was in here crying!

KID #2
Is it true?

KID #3
I knew that guy was really a pussy!

William looks at Mike, who looks terrified. William considers the situation for a beat, then looks back at the kids.

WILLIAM
No ... sorry. I ... I haven't seen 'im.

The Kids walk away, disappointed.

KID #1
Damn. I had my camera too ...

William turns back as Mike sits up. William shakes his head. He can't believe he did that.

MIKE
Thanks, man ... that was the nicest thing anybody's done for me all night.

William sits down next to Mike. They're both a little surprised.

WILLIAM
Yeah ... I bet it was.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

We see Amanda escape through the front door. She pushes her way past one more HORNY GUY, calling out her name.

YET ANOTHER HORNY GUY
Hey, Amanda ...!

She finally makes it to the front lawn, alone and relieved.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A moment later, Preston emerges from the house. He spots Amanda on the lawn, alone. He crosses over to her, determined.

PRESTON
Amanda ...

She turns. Preston reaches her. The words come out convoluted but sincere.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Amanda, I know you don't know me all that well but I know if I don't say this to you right now I'll always be wondering what could've happened if I had said it so I'm just gonna say it right here on this lawn ...

Amanda looks at him blankly. He takes a deep breath.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
I love you. And I know it sounds really strange but I always thought there was this unspoken connection between us -- Ever since the first time I saw you and you were holding my favorite pop-tart and ... And the truth is I'm leaving tomorrow so I was kinda hoping we could at least go someplace and --

AMANDA
Oh all right, that is ENOUGH!!!

Preston is stunned. But Amanda is furious. She's had it.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
I haven't even been single for like five minutes and for some reason you think I'm gonna just strip off my clothes and do you right here just because you imagined we had some intimate moment that you've probably been jerking off to for the past three years?!!

People TURN, hearing her YELLING. Preston is wide-eyed.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
I mean, how sick and deluded are you?! Why can't you just leave me alone and go off and get yourself a goddamn life?!! Asshole!!!

Amanda storms off and everybody on the lawn CHEERS. Preston is shattered. He stumbles away as a few people LAUGH at him.

(CONTINUED)

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Amanda runs through the house, searching for Preston. She passes the fancy room ...

We MOVE inside to find Mike and William — sitting on the couch, drinking together.

WILLIAM
Aw, don't worry, man. She'll come back. They allll come back.

MIKE
I don't know. I think I blew it.

WILLIAM
Then who needs her?! Plenty of fish in the sea, bro. Plenty of fish in the sea.

MIKE
Hey, man. Remember that time you had to make some boring speech and I tripped you on your way to the stage? And the whole school laughed at you?

WILLIAM
Yeah?

MIKE
I'm sorry man.

William looks at him.

WILLIAM
Aw, don't worry 'bout it. 'S ancient history.

They toast each other. Like it was another lifetime.

MIKE
When was that anyway?

WILLIAM
This morning at graduation.

MIKE
Oh yeah.

They start LAUGHING.

CONTINUED: (2)

NASTY KID
Thanks, man. That was the funniest thing I've seen all night.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Things with Kenny and Denise are really heating up. Kissing passionately, they ROLL over, locked in an embrace. Kenny BANGS HIS HEAD on the TOILET. He cringes in pain. They LAUGH, then move back to the center of the floor, resuming their activity.

INT. PRESTON'S CAR - NIGHT

Preston, tired and defeated, DRIVES home.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Amanda sits alone on a little grassy slope. She's holding Preston's letter in her hand. She looks at it and frowns sadly. Yearbook Girl comes over.

YEARBOOK GIRL
Amanda! You never signed my yearbook!

Amanda accepts the yearbook glumly. As she is about to sign, she glances at the letter -- then back at the yearbook. Of course! She quickly flips, searching for Preston's photo ...

YEARBOOK GIRL
(concerned)
Actually, I'm really trying to get everyone to sign by their <u>own</u> picture ...

Amanda FINDS what she was looking for: Preston's SENIOR PORTRAIT. Seeing his face, Amanda looks shocked.

AMANDA
Oh my god ...

She looks from the letter to the picture.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Oh shit!

Amanda TOSSES the yearbook aside and runs into the house. Yearbook Girl picks up her book, annoyed.

YEARBOOK GIRL
What is wrong with everybody?!
(holds it up, announcing)
THESE ARE MEMORIES FROZEN IN TIME, PEOPLE!

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Amanda runs out into the front yard, searching for Preston. He's gone. Frustrated, she finally GIVES UP and walks down to her car. Right after she DRIVES OFF ...

A POLICE CRUISER rolls to a stop across the street. The noise from inside is VERY LOUD. The COPS get out.

COP #1
(into radio)
Yeah, send a couple of units of backup.

He drops the radio back in the car. The cops stick their NIGHTSTICKS in their BELTS.

COP #2
Man, I hate graduation.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The Band is on stage. Finally READY TO PLAY to a FULL ROOM.

LEAD SINGER
All right! This is it!

BASS PLAYER
I knew we could do it!

DRUMMER
(hitting sticks)
One! Two ! Three --!

And just as they're about to rip into their first CHORD -- the COPS BURST IN THE DOOR.

COPS
Everybody freeze!!!

GUITAR PLAYER
(defeated)
Aw, shit.

The kids all SCREAM and SCATTER.

VARIOUS KIDS
(all together)
IT'S THE PIGS!!! RAID!!! RUN!!! I DON'T WANNA DIE!!!

The Cops chase the kids through the house. It's PANDEMONIUM.

INT. FANCY ROOM - NIGHT

Mike and William are sitting at the piano together playing "HEART & SOUL". They notice the cops.

MIKE
Shit! It's the cops! C'mon!

Mike pulls William away.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Mike and William drunkenly RUN OUT the back door.

MIKE
Over here!

WILLIAM
No over here!

They try to pull each other in different directions. The YEARBOOK GIRL runs up to Mike.

YEARBOOK GIRL
Mike! You never signed my yearbook!

Mike GRABS her yearbook and TOSSES it in the POOL. SPLASH!

YEARBOOK GIRL (CONT'D)
Hey!!!

She leans over the edge of the pool to get it.

MIKE
Wait! The poolhouse! We can hide behind there!

Mike stumbles off.

WILLIAM
Totally! The poolhouse! Y'know, if we're gonna hide we should have disguises and phony mustaches an' --

We hear an OFFSCREEEN SPLASH as the Yearbook Girl FALLS into the pool. She SCREAMS. Suddenly, William realizes ...

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
The poolhouse? ... Mike, wait!

William rushes off after Mike.

EXT. BEHIND THE POOLHOUSE - NIGHT

Mike sneaks behind the poolhouse. Calls back to William:

MIKE
Dude, hurry up!

EXT. POOLHOUSE ROOF - NIGHT

The X-Files Guys HEAR Mike. Motion to one another to keep quiet.

EXT. BEHIND THE POOLHOUSE - NIGHT

William runs to catch Mike.

WILLIAM
Wait, Mike! Don't go back he --

And suddenly, the X-FILES GUYS POUNCE DOWN FROM ABOVE, KNOCKING OVER MIKE AND WILLIAM. In the SHADOWS, they quickly shove the CHLOROFORM-SOAKED RAGS in Mike and William's faces. Eventually the victims STOP STRUGGLING.

X-FILES GUY #1
(whispering)
It worked!! All right, they're out.
Take off their clothes!

The X-files guys struggle to remove the victims' clothing.

X-FILES GUY #2
Get the Polaroid!

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! The guys snap off a few POLAROIDS. One of the guys notices something in the grass.

X-FILES GUY #1
Hey, look -- my flashlight.

He picks it up and shines it on the victims ...

X-FILES GUY #2
Wait a minute...that's -- that's William!

Indeed it is. The light shines on his sleeping face.

X-FILES GUY #1
Uh oh ...

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Now MORE KIDS are STAMPEDING out the back door. Another POLICE CRUISER has pulled up the DRIVEWAY. Kenny's White Homeboys are pulled into a PADDY WAGON, COMPLAINING about "THE MAN".

Meanwhile, the Yearbook Girl is CLIMBING OUT of the pool, SOAKING WET, clutching her yearbook. Just as she steps out, a whole HERD OF KIDS RUN PAST, KNOCKING HER BACK IN.

EXT. BEHIND THE POOLHOUSE - NIGHT

The X-Files Guys are still staring down at William, aghast, when they notice all the party/police commotion.

X-FILES GUY #1
Let's get outta here!

They drop their supplies and SCRAMBLE AWAY.

INT. PARTY HOUSE UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kenny and Denise are intertwined on the floor. Things are heating up. They break from a very intense kiss.

DENISE
So, uh, lemme ask ... you <u>have</u>, or haven't done this before?

KENNY
Yes.
(beat)
No.

DENISE
Mmm. Well, that's okay. I have.

They kiss, then Kenny PULLS AWAY.

KENNY
You have? When? With who?

DENISE
Just once. Do you really wanna know?

KENNY
(thinks)
Actually, no. No I don't. But whoever he is, I hate him.

Denise smiles. They resume kissing.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The cops chase a few of the remaining stragglers. One Cop is trying to calm the Crying Drunk Girl.

CALM COP
Miss, for the last time, stop crying and give me your name and address.

CRYING DRUNK GIRL
(subtitled, still crying)
But I already told you! My name is Mary Hampson, and I live at 1787 --

CALM COP
(sighs)
All right. We'll have to take her in.

Another cop DRAGS her off to a paddy wagon. She WAILS.

COP #1 walks behind the poolhouse.

COP #1
Whoa-ho-hoaah! I think you boys might wanna see this for yourselves.

The other cops walk around to see ...

William and Mike, HALF NAKED, in EACH OTHERS ARMS, POLAROID PICTURES littered around them -- along with the JURASSIC PARK TEEPMOS and various OTHER INSIDIOUS LOOKING TOOLS.

COP #2
Holy Christ.

COP #3
Looks like some sort of twisted satanic exhibitionist drug ritual.

COP #1
What's that they were sniffin'?

Cop #2 takes a quick whiff from the rag.

COP #2
Whoo! Some sort of homemade turpentine.

COP #3
They just get sicker every year.

COP #4
(shaking his head)
It's that "Ellen" show ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They all look disgusted.

COP #1
Load 'em into the wagon.

INT. PARTY HOUSE UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

CLOTHING is scattered about. The SCENTED CANDLE is LIT. The packs of CONDOMS are strewn around the tile. Denise and Kenny lie next to one another. They are COVERED in a big BATH TOWEL. They both look a bit uncomfortable.

Denise looks over at Kenny. He quickly LOOKS AWAY. After a moment, Kenny steals a glance back at Denise. She quickly LOOKS UP at the ceiling.

KENNY
Well.

DENISE
Well.

Unsure of what to do next, Denise cautiously reaches for her shirt. Kenny takes note of this and reaches for his shirt. They silently start to dress, awkwardly avoiding each other's gaze.

DENISE (CONT'D)
So, uh ... Just-- just so you know it's, it's not always uh ... It gets better.

KENNY
What?

DENISE
Well, you know ... like next time you won't be so uh -- it can go for ... longer.

She was trying to be supportive, but instead Kenny just looks totally EMBARRASSED. Denise notices and immediately tries to apologize.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Oh god. That's not what I meant. I -- what I meant was, you know, since we hadn't ever done it together, well --

Kenny masks his discomfort and coolly begins buttoning his shirt.

KENNY
How do you know it wasn't your fault?

CONTINUED:

DENISE
(taken aback)
Uh ... I uh ...

KENNY
I mean you said yourself you'd only done it once before. It's not like you're some expert.

DENISE
I never said I was, I was just trying to--

KENNY
You know, 'cause my shit coulda been slammin' with someone else.

DENISE
(stunned)
What?

KENNY
Look baby, it ain't your fault you lack the flava.

Denise GASPS, insulted.

DENISE
You -- you -- you're saying I didn't turn you on ...?

Kenny SHRUGS. Denise looks at him, hurt.

DENISE (CONT'D)
You pig.

Her eyes start to WELL UP. She starts SCRAMBLING for the rest of her clothing, choking back TEARS.

DENISE (CONT'D)
I don't believe this. How could I -- I don't believe this ...

Kenny swallows guiltily. He knows he's gone too far.

DENISE (CONT'D)
What the hell was I thinking? God, I'm so stupid!

She quickly puts her jeans on. Kenny reaches out for her.

KENNY
Denise --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DENISE
Don't touch me! You make me sick!

Just then, the Girl Whose Party It Is BURSTS through the door.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Who the hell is in here?!

KENNY
(grabbing for his pants)
Hey! Have you ever heard of knocking?!

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
I don't have to knock! This is my house!

DENISE
Yeah, well you should fix that door!

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Get out!

DENISE
Don't worry, I am!

KENNY
No, Denise, hold up! I wanna --

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
GET OUT!

Kenny starts GRABBING his things. Denise pushes her way out of the bathroom.

KENNY
DENISE!

DENISE
LEAVE ME ALONE!

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
GET OUT!!!!

KENNY
I'M TRYING!

He GATHERS the last of his Kit and hurriedly ZIPS it up. He brushes past the Girl.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Yo, what's your problem?

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
My problem?! My PROBLEM??!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

She FOLLOWS Kenny.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kenny hurries downstairs. Party Girl chases him.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
You people come in here, let my dog out, get drunk, run all over the fancy room, blast music, spill punch, break stuff, smear poop on the carpet --

Kenny struggles to UNLOCK the front door.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
-- draw nipples on my mother, throw up in my pool, sniff drugs behind the poolhouse, get me 75 hours of community service and a five hundred dollar fine -- THEN BREAK MY BATHROOM DOOR AND HAVE SEX IN THERE??!!! AND YOU WANNA KNOW MY PROBLEM???!!!! I'LL TELL YOU MY PROBLEM!!! IT'S --

Kenny OPENS the door. The DOG comes TROTTING IN, WAGGING his tail.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
TOFU!

The Girl chases the dog into the house.

GIRL WHOSE PARTY IT IS
Tofu, where were you?! You know you're not supposed to leave the house! Bad dog! BAD! COME HERE! TOFU!

Kenny RUNS out as fast as he can. The FRONT DOOR SLAMS SHUT behind him.

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

William lies on a cot, out cold. We hear the cell door OPEN as a COP enters, holding a CLIPBOARD.

COP
Lutz. William.

William stirs, still not quite sober.

WILLIAM
Wha ...?

(CONTINUED)

COP
Let's go. Time to get up. Your parents are here to take you home.

William's eyes open. The evening's events come rushing back at him. He looks around, realizing where he is and quickly sits up. Too quickly. He grabs his head in agony.

WILLIAM
Oh god. Oh god. I'm going to die.

COP
I don't think so. It's just a hangover.

WILLIAM
No, I meant --
(clutches at his skull)
-- although this is definitely some form of death -- I was actually talking about my parents. God, my parents ... I've ruined my life. I've ruined their lives.
(terrified)
So, so are they really angry? Did you notice my dad carrying a weapon of any sort?

The cop shakes his head.

COP
'Fraid not. Actually, they more worried than anything else. You know, 'cause it's not your fault that ...
(looking down at clipboard)
"Mike Dexter beat you up and forced you to drink alcohol until you passed out."

The cop recites this as if he knows this is the furthest possible thing from the truth. William is stunned.

WILLIAM
Wha-- What did you just say?

COP
That's the story we got from the Dexter kid.

WILLIAM
(amazed)
He told you that. That -- it was his...?

The cop eyes him sardonically.

CONTINUED: (2)

COP
Unless you have a more unrealistic version you'd like to try and sell me.

WILLIAM
(quickly)
No. Definitely not. I was just ... well you know it's just so funny that he finally admitted it. You know. That Mike, always picking on me. Ha ha ha ...

William forces a laugh, then clutches his head like it's gonna explode.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Ow. Ow. Ow.

The cop nods, not really caring either way. He shrugs.

COP
All right. Whatever. Just, do us both a favor don't let me see either of you in here again.

WILLIAM
Absolutely. I'll be sure to do that. Thank you. Thank you.

William STRUGGLES to his feet and STUMBLES out of the cell. He stops and looks at the cop in sudden agony.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Bathroom?

COP
To your left.

William CLAPS his hand over his mouth and runs for the bathroom.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Denise WALKS quickly up the street. In the background, we SEE Kenny's Range Rover. He PULLS up alongside her and ROLLS DOWN THE WINDOW.

KENNY
Denise.

She keeps walking. Doesn't respond.

KENNY (CONT'D)
C'mon. What, are you just gonna walk home?

(CONTINUED)

She quickens her pace.

DENISE
It's not that far ...

Kenny STOPS the car and jumps out to follow her on foot.

KENNY
Denise, just -- slow down a sec, would ya? I wanna explain.

DENISE
Don't bother.

KENNY
No no no, c'mon I -- I'm sorry. Seriously. It's just -- in there, after I ... you know ...
(embarrassed)
Well I felt bad enough already and then you went said that thing about it not being good for you, so I ... I just ... I'm sorry.

Denise stops walking, but still doesn't look at him. Kenny walks in front of her, trying to catch her eye. He looks sincere.

KENNY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Really. That stuff I said, I... that was kinda -- mean.

DENISE
(softly)
It's okay, I ... I guess I shouldn't have... well, you know. I'm sorry too.

They are silent for a moment. Finally, Denise looks up at him, then quickly looks away, embarrassed. Kenny looks worried.

KENNY
What. What ...?

DENISE
Nothing. I mean, we just --

She glances at him again, uncomfortable, then stifles an embarrassed giggle. She tries to contain herself.

DENISE (CONT'D)
We ... We had sex.

She puts her hand over her mouth, as if she's just witnessed a horrible tragedy. Kenny looks insulted.

(CONTINUED)

KENNY
Uh, yeah. We did.

Denise would like to reassure him, but she can't quite get a grip on this. It's all way too weird.

DENISE
No, I mean, we ... I mean, you and me. Isn't that ... ?
(looking away)
'Cause... Well don't you think that's...?

She looks at him, incredulous and appalled. Kenny looks back. Then he sort of half-smiles and looks away.

KENNY
Yeah. Somewhat.

They both stand there on the street, silent. They both look up, down, around -- anywhere but at each other. Finally, Denise speaks:

DENISE
So.

KENNY
Sooo ...

And they finally meet each other's gaze. And crack up, LAUGHING.

INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Amanda is sitting at her desk, reading over Preston's letter. She folds it, then, still holding onto it, she looks up at the mirror over the desk. Wedged along the frame are countless PHOTOS of her and Mike. She puts the letter aside and begins taking down all of the pictures. As she DROPS each one into the trash, she seems more and more relieved.

INT. PRESTON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Preston is lying on his bed, surrounded by his already-packed LUGGAGE. He STARES up at the ceiling, unable to sleep.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PANCAKES - MORNING

Preston's car pulls up to the IHOP. We hear DENISE'S VOICE over the PHONE.

(CONTINUED)

DENISE (O.S.)
(through phone)
Hey Pres, I kinda lost you last night, huh? Maybe you're with Amanda right now! Ooooh ... Seriously, I have got to see you before you leave so meet me at the IHOP for breakfast. I have to tell you a very interesting story about my night ...

EXT. IHOP - MORNING

Preston is sitting on the hood of his car with Denise. He looks completely stunned.

PRESTON
Get out.
(shakes his head)
Get out. Really?

Denise nods.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Kenny *Fisher*?

Denise shrugs. It's all true.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
So, so are you guys like, a couple now?

DENISE
Whoa, whoa, whoa! Not so fast there, my friend. There's *much* to be dealt with before that could happen ...

Preston and Denise turn and look at the IHOP WINDOW. Kenny's inside. He nods and flashes a gangsta-style PEACE SIGN at them. Denise rolls her eyes.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Right there, for one.

Denise gives Kenny an annoyed WAVE, then turns back to Preston.

PRESTON
To say I'm shocked is an understatement.

DENISE
You and me both.

PRESTON
But if you're happy --

DENISE
Am I ever?

PRESTON
Well then if you're ... remotely amused, say, then I think it's great.

Denise smiles and even blushes a little.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Well look at that.

DENISE
(embarrassed)
Shut up.
(shakes it off)
Okay. Off of me, please. On to you. Did you finally tell Amanda Beckett how the sun rises and sets on her very being?

PRESTON
I did indeed.

DENISE
(surprised)
You did?! And?!

PRESTON
And she shot me down. Brutally, I might add.

Denise looks genuinely disappointed.

DENISE
Oh, Pres. I'm sorry. God ...

He shrugs. Denise groans angrily.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Ugh, that bitch! She's such a bitch...!

PRESTON
It's okay.

DENISE
No! She's a total bitch! You know, what, screw it! I'm gonna call her today and --

PRESTON
Hey, hey, slow down. I appreciate the fury, but, really. It's okay. I'm okay.

Denise looks at him, trying to be sure.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Really. I am. Actually, surprising as it may seem, I even feel good. I mean, I don't feel *good* but I feel -- like it's over. I finally did it. I finally took the chance, went out on that limb and now ... I'm free. You know? I've got my closure.

Denise looks on, sympathetic.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
And as far as the fate thing goes, well, maybe I wasn't destined to live happily ever after with Amanda. But maybe I <u>was</u> destined to go through all of this so I could ... maybe come out a better person. I mean, I think I may have really learned something about myself.

Denise looks at him like he's full of shit. Preston laughs.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Look, I'm trying to make the best of it, okay?

She smiles. Preston looks off, still a little sad. Waits a beat.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Would've been cool to make out with her, though.

Denise laughs. Preston looks at her, serious.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Would, would you make out with me?

Denise SMACKS him in the arm. They both laugh together.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JEEP - MORNING

Preston is in his car, leaning out the window. Denise stands by. Neither wants to drag this out.

DENISE
Call me when you get there?

PRESTON
Most definitely. Peace out, G.

(CONTINUED)

Denise glares at him.

DENISE
Shut up.

Preston NODS, then backs up the car. They WAVE to each other as he drives away.

INT. IHOP - MORNING

MOVE through the restaurant, taking in the groggy, hung over partiers eating breakfast. Crying Drunk Girl with the Exchange Student. Yearbook Girl drying her yearbook with Reminiscing Guy. The Band -- already fighting again ... etc. We STOP when we reach MIKE AND THE JOCKS.

MIKE
... All I know is tonight I'm goin' to a bar, chicks are gonna be all over my jock and you guys are gonna be stuck at home with your girlfriends.

JOCK 1
Yeah, maybe we *should* break up with 'em...

William ENTERS and looks around the restaurant. He spots Mike and walks over to his table, all smiles.

WILLIAM
Hey, Mike, I never got a chance to thank you for covering for me last night! That was so cool! Telling the cops all that stuff ...

He STARTS TO SIT DOWN next to Mike. Mike looks at him, cold.

MIKE
Yo, what are you doing?

William freezes.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Geek. Who the hell said you could sit with us?

William stands, confused.

WILLIAM
I just thought ...

CONTINUED:

JOCK 1
Yeah, shouldn't you be home playing with your computer?

MIKE
Yeah, Urkel, go watch some Star Trek.

The Jocks LAUGH at William. William looks really hurt. He slowly WALKS AWAY.

JOCK 1
(hysterical)
Urkel! That's so funny!

A sad William pauses at the door. He turns around to look at all the kids who were his friends last night. No one even looks at him.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPER INFO:

"WILLIAM WENT ON TO HARVARD, WHERE HE BECAME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS. THE FOLLOWING SPRING, HE FORMED A SOFTWARE COMPANY THAT IS NOW VALUED AT 3 BILLION DOLLARS. HE IS CURRENTLY DATING A SUPERMODEL."

UNFREEZE. As William leaves, we cut back to Mike's table. They're still laughing about the Urkel comment. Mike HOLDS HIS FINGERS UP TO HIS EYES LIKE GLASSES. He looks like an idiot.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPER INFO:

"MIKE WENT TO ITHACA, WHERE HE JOINED A FRATERNITY, DRANK TOO MUCH, AND LOST HIS FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP. HE RECENTLY APPLIED FOR A JOB AS A MALL SECURITY GUARD ... BUT WAS TURNED DOWN AFTER SOME INCRIMINATING POLAROIDS SURFACED."

UNFREEZE. We MOVE to the back of the restaurant, where Kenny sits at a booth. Denise enters frame and Kenny looks up, expectant. He grins slyly, hands outstretched.

KENNY
Yo, you want some a 'dis?

Denise sighs and shakes her head. She takes a seat across from Kenny.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPER INFO:

"DENISE DUMPED KENNY THE NEXT DAY."

SUPER DENISE'S INFO:

CONTINUED:

"DENISE WENT TO NYU WHERE SHE FOUND A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE JUST LIKE HER. INCREDIBLY BORED BY THEM ALL, SHE DROPPED OUT AND STARTED SHOOTING COVERS FOR ROLLING STONE. SHE RECENTLY DIRECTED THE LATEST VIDEO FOR THE WU-TANG CLAN."

SUPER KENNY'S INFO:

"KENNY WENT TO UCLA AND FOUND A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO WERE JUST LIKE HIM. UNABLE TO COMPETE, HE REINVENTED HIMSELF AS A NEW-AGE, SPIRITUALIST VEGETARIAN -- AND IS NOW LIVING WITH A CULT IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA."

UNFREEZE. DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Preston stands on the curb with his bags. He is WAVING GOODBYE to his father's CAR, pulling away from the curb.

INT. TERMINAL - DAY

Preston walks through the terminal alone.

INT. GATE - DAY

Preston leafs through a magazine as he waits for his flight. He looks around, unable to concentrate. Other passengers are already boarding.

Eventually, the FLIGHT ATTENDANT at the gate announces his row. Preston gathers his bags and STANDS. Once he gets in line, a HAND taps him on the shoulder.

OFFSCREEN VOICE
Excuse me, I think you dropped this.

Preston turns around to see ... Amanda. She's standing there shyly, holding his letter. He can't believe his eyes.

PRESTON
What -- what are you doing here?

Amanda smiles at his reaction.

AMANDA
I stopped at the IHOP. I uh, must have just missed you. Your friend Denise told me you'd be here. I don't think she likes me ...

PRESTON
Oh my god ... I don't --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMANDA
Look, Preston before you say anything I just want to apologize. What I said to you on the lawn ... I had no idea...

She gestures to the letter. Preston looks at it, confused.

PRESTON
How did you get that?

AMANDA
You left it at the party.

Preston looks panicked, realizing what this means.

PRESTON
So you -- did you read it?

Amanda NODS. Terrified, Preston immediately covers.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Okay well lemme just explain that that was totally a --

AMANDA
I loved it.

PRESTON
(stunned)
You did.

AMANDA
(softly)
It's beautiful.

PRESTON
It is?

She smiles. Nods. A FINAL BOARDING CALL is announced for Preston's plane.

AMANDA
Nobody's ever said anything like this to me before. And I just ... I guess I just wanted to thank you.

Preston just looks at her, dumbfounded.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Do you ... is it okay if I keep it?

CONTINUED: (2)

PRESTON
Yes!
(calming himself)
Yes. I mean, it is for you ...

Amanda looks down at the letter.

AMANDA
Thanks.

She looks around at the waiting area. It's almost empty. They're making the last of the final boarding calls. She looks at Preston.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
So you're ... leaving now.

PRESTON
(thinks)
Yeah, I've got this workshop. Kurt Vonnegut. Major hero ...
(looks frustrated)
They pick twenty kids out of five thousand applications. Lucky me.

AMANDA
Well I guess you should, then ...

They both stand there, unsure of what to do. The Flight Attendant approaches Preston.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Sir? Are you getting on the plane?

Preston looks over at the gate, then back at Amanda. The Flight Attendant and Amanda are waiting for an answer ...

PRESTON
No.

Preston PULLS AMANDA CLOSE and KISSES her. Passionately. She kisses him back with just as much passion.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPER INFO:

"SEVEN FLIGHTS LATER, PRESTON FINALLY GOT ON A PLANE TO CHICAGO. AMANDA FLEW OUT TO VISIT HIM THE NEXT WEEKEND. THEY ARE STILL DATING."

UNFREEZE. Preston and Amanda CONTINUE TO KISS. SUPER:

"THEY PLAN TO CELELBRATE THEIR ANNIVERSARY BY GOING TO A BARRY MANILOW CONCERT."

(CONTINUED)

As we PULL BACK we hear a cool NEW COVER VERSION of "MANDY".

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MORNING

We find the X-Files Guys walking home.

X-FILES GUY #1
I can't believe we jumped William.

X-FILES GUY #2
Yeah.
(a little sad)
I can't believe we didn't go into the party.

X-FILES GUY #1
It probably sucked anyway.

X-FILES GUY #2
Probably. All those people are totally boring.

X-FILES GUY #1
Yeah. This town is so lame.

X-FILES GUY #2
Nothing exciting ever happens here.

X-Files Guy #1 is about to agree when a HUGE DARK SHADOW creeps over them from above. We hear a LOW RUMBLING. The guys stop and slowly look up. Their eyes widen and we hear a LOUD HUM. A BEAM OF LIGHT WIDENS on their faces ...

FLASH!

-- THE END --